

US, Israel in new missile project

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30 Palestinian women prisoners freed

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Thirty of the 31 Palestinian women prisoners slated for release had left prison by 11:30 last night. Only Zinav Sido, convicted of selling drugs in 1994 after the Oslo agreement was signed, remained at Neveh Tirza Prison.

The release was delayed as the High Court of Justice considered and then rejected a last-minute petition against the release of six of the prisoners by the Terror Victims Association.

Lamya Maarouf, a 32-year-old Brazilian citizen, was the first prisoner to be released at about 4 p.m. Israeli and Palestinian officials said she would be deported to Brazil. Maarouf was arrested in 1986 for driving the car in which soldier David Manos was kidnapped. Manos was killed and Maarouf was sentenced to 25 years in jail.

At least two other convicted killers were released: Abeer al-Wheidy, 27, arrested in 1992 for belonging to a cell of the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction that killed a Jewish settler from the settlement of Ofra; and May Ghusein, 23, arrested in 1991 for security reasons. Ghusein confessed to killing a Palestinian in jail suspected of collaborating with the prison authorities.

All of those released were required to sign a statement promising to refrain from violence.

A Palestinian official said most of the freed prisoners were taken to Ramallah, where Palestinian Authority leader

Yasser Arafat and their friends and families waited anxiously to welcome them.

Two Palestinian officials — legislator Hisham Abdel-Razek and Soufian Abu Zaida, head of the Israel desk in the PA — greeted the 25 women who left Tel Mond prison.

Arafat called the releases a

High Court rejects last-minute petition, Page 2

good sign for peace with Israel.

"No doubt this will help the relationship between the two peoples," he told reporters.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, paying hospital visits in the North to soldiers wounded in Lebanon, said the promise to free the women was made originally by the Labor government.

"It's not a tactic, we are serious about fulfilling commitments, but we intend fully to see that there is an equal reciprocity on the other side," Netanyahu said.

Israel has demanded the PA keep its promise to change sections of the PLO Charter calling for the destruction of Israel, avoid political activity in Jerusalem and fight Palestinian terror groups opposed to peace deals.

Abdel-Razek said that 28 of the women had been convicted of security offences and three were jailed for criminal activity unrelated to the Israeli-Arab conflict.

IAF hits inside Lebanon

By DAVID HUDGE

IAF jets and helicopter gunships blasted Hizbullah and Palestinian targets in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley and south of Beirut yesterday, sending a message from Jerusalem to the Lebanese and Syrian governments to restrain the extremist organizations.

"We won't sit with folded hands," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said. "We will attack wherever we think it is necessary to attack. In the past few hours our planes have also struck on the outskirts of Beirut, in the Nu'eme region, and in the Bekaa."

The "Voice of the Oppressed" radio station, one of two operated by Hizbullah, just north of the organization's stronghold in Baalbek, in the Bekaa Valley, was destroyed.

Bases of Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command in the Sultan Yacoub region, in the Bekaa Valley, and in Nu'eme region, south of Beirut, were also hit in the air strikes by warplanes and helicopter gunships. After the attack, Jibril toured the base near Sultan Yacoub for about five minutes under heavy guard.

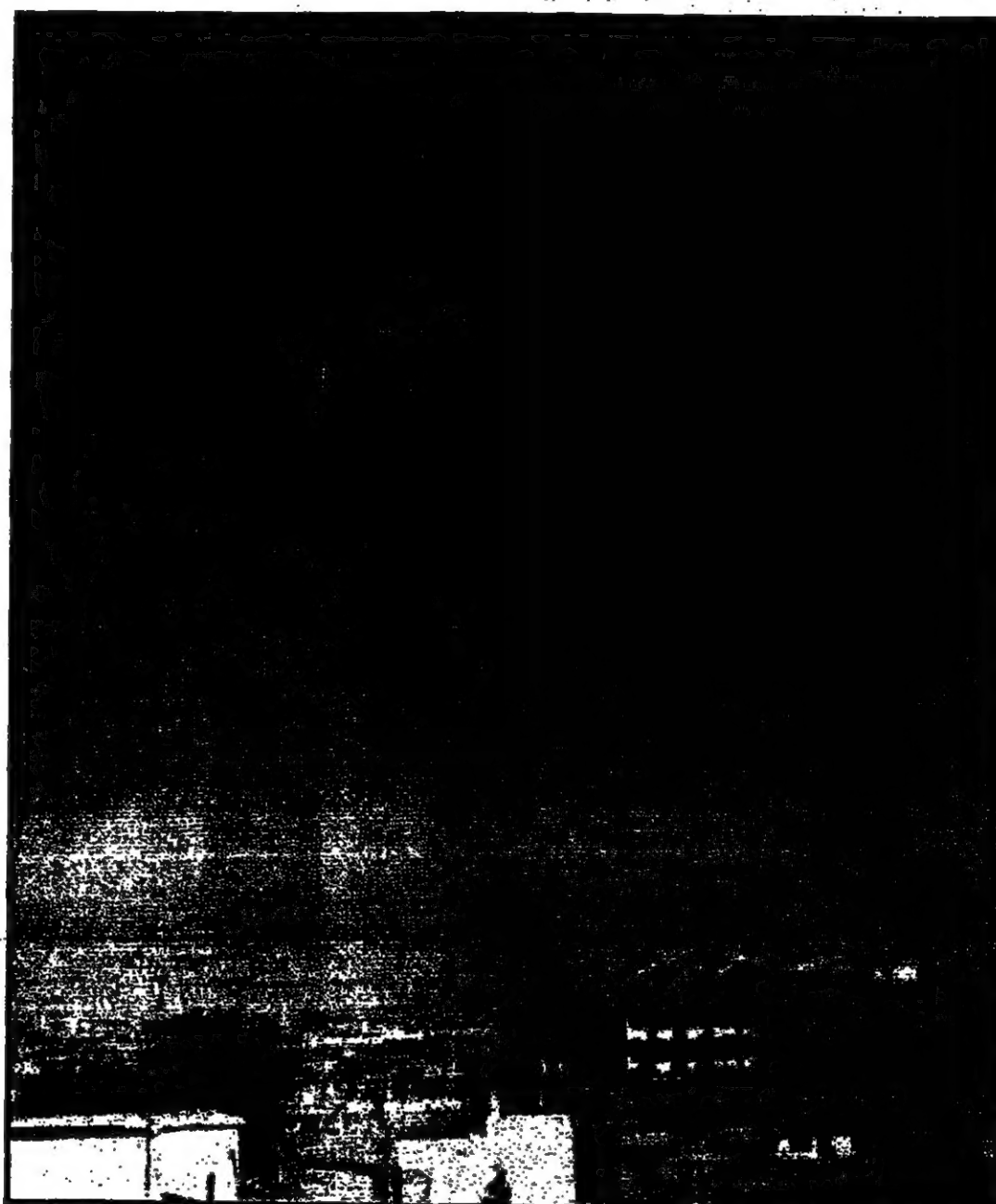
The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits on the targets and that all the planes had returned safely to their bases.

The raids, the deepest into Lebanese territory since Operation Grapes of Wrath last April, further heightened the tension in south Lebanon.

IDF and South Lebanese Army troops inside the security zone and along the northern border were on full alert last night in case of attempts by Hizbullah to retaliate with Katyusha rockets on the Galilee or widespread attacks on targets in the zone.

Mordechai warned Lebanon against allowing an escalation of the fighting in the zone that could spread to the rest of the country.

"Lebanon is only partially independent and therefore I call not just on Lebanon, but also Syria, before the situation becomes complicated, that it would be better to reduce the conflict and entangle-



A column of smoke rises from a Hizbullah radio transmission antenna in Baalbek, eastern Lebanon, after IAF jets attacked the facility during a series of raids yesterday. (Reuters)

ment accompanied Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on a visit to IDF soldiers at a position on the Lebanese border, and then to Nahariya Government Hospital, where other soldiers injured in Sunday's clash are being treated.

Initial reports from Lebanon said a shepherd was wounded in the air raids in the Bekaa, although later reports said the casualties included the commander of Jibril's forces in the Bekaa and two of his men.

Hizbullah gunmen sealed off the areas hit in the raids, and it was impossible for reporters to get accurate details on casualties.

Officials of the Iranian-backed Shi'ite organization were quick to respond to the attacks by saying Hizbullah would retaliate.

Deputy Hizbullah leader Sheikh Naim Kassem had earlier said that the organization's fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, was on full alert to thwart any attacks or air raids by the "Zionist enemy."

Netanyahu told reporters during his visit to the North that it would be wrong to be dragged into uncontrolled actions regarding Syria, despite the problems in south Lebanon.

"I have not proposed any pre-conditions for the resumption of talks with Syria. I don't think it would be wise for them or us to make pre-conditions," said Netanyahu.

"It is clear, however, that in order for the negotiations between Israel and Syria to advance, there has to be direct and determined action by Syria to reduce terror [in south Lebanon]."

"It's impossible to advance peace between Israel and Syria if an indirect war is being waged against Israel," said Netanyahu.

Labor MK Ephraim Sneh also visited the security zone yesterday and met with SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, who has said a unilateral withdrawal by Israel from south Lebanon would be a grave mistake. He said Lahad had stated that morale among the SLA troops was high and that they felt they could do much more given the right equipment.

COMMENT

By DAVID HUDGE

In the public debate over Lebanon no mention has been made of one possible solution that would allow Israel a way out of the morass while retaining a modicum of dignity and providing the opportunity for reaching interna-

tionally assured security arrangements.

The concept is not new — in fact it is almost 20 years old, and for that reason has most probably been forgotten, overlooked or, possibly, deliberately ignored. It does not require the establish-

ment of a multinational body or the populist fantasy of creating an American-backed pan-Arab force to oversee a security zone vacated by the IDF in the event of a unilateral withdrawal.

The idea is UN Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978 that led to

the inception of the multinational force known as the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

UNIFIL's mandate as set out at that time, and which has been renewed every six months since then at the behest of the Lebanese

Continued on Page 3

Banker agrees to cut his own salary

By GALIT LIPKOS BECK

It is not every day that the chairman of a bank decides to take a whopping cut in his own salary and give up shares worth millions of shekels. But that's what Shmuel Weber, the controlling shareholder in Trade Bank and chairman of its board of directors, has done. And he says he's doing it for the sake of the bank.

In an attempt to end a three-year dispute with other shareholders, Weber agreed to forego options worth NIS 2.5 million and a 17 percent drop in his salary of \$15,000 per month.

"It causes bad blood and this is not good for business," he said. "I decided that it is about time for domestic harmony."

Trade Bank is among the country's smaller banks, offering deposits, credit and foreign currency. Weber controls about 40% of its shares. While Trade Bank has registered profits in recent years, Weber admitted that the internal dispute among shareholders had harmed the bank's performance.

In August 1993, a Trade Bank general meeting authorized Weber to receive options worth NIS 12.5m. (their value has since shrunk to NIS 2.5m.), a monthly salary of \$15,000 per month and a bonus calculated at 50 percent of the bank's profits.

The generous benefits, far higher than those at other commercial banks, were sharply criticized by the bank's minority shareholders who claimed they had been authorized illegally. In 1996, a Tel Aviv District Court ruling cancelled the benefits at the request of the shareholders. Several months later, however,

Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles decided to approve the allocation of Weber's options and salary but not the bonus. In response, Weber filed a claim to the Supreme Court.

But in a surprise announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday, Trade Bank said Weber had

reached an understanding with the Eran family, owners of 99% of the bank's shares that put an end to the legal dispute. It said the chairman had given up his options, would now receive a monthly salary of \$12,500 and a graded bonus in accordance with the bank's earnings.

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Jerusalem Post

High Court to hear bid to stop A-G appointment

HIGH Court justices are to hear a request for a restraining order against the appointment of lawyer Roni Bar-On as attorney-general at 8 a.m. today.

Justice Theodor Or decided on the time for the hearing after receiving the request from Labor MK Ophir Pines at his home last night. The hearing is set for one hour before Bar-On is scheduled to replace Michael Ben-Yair at a Justice Ministry ceremony this morning. Or will be joined by Justices Mishael Cheshin and Yitzhak Zamir.

Pines said the process by which Bar-On was appointed was improper, saying it was done quickly to keep ministers from fully considering the appointment.

He added that Bar-On is a staunch Likud supporter, a member of the Likud central committee, a member of the party's Jerusalem branch and active in the party's Knesset and Jerusalem mayoral election campaigns. He said such a clearly political appointment could significantly hurt the attorney-general's ability to remain independent.

He also noted that Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi had done his legal apprenticeship with Bar-On, making for a "give-and-take" relationship between them, and that there was a danger the attorney-general would become "the justice minister's clerk."

Pines charged that the appointment undermined the rule of law and could undermine public trust in the legal system.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the

appointment, the chairman of the Knesset Law Committee, MK Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party), has decided to speed up legislation setting new guidelines for appointing the attorney-general.

Yahalom is proposing taking the appointment out of the government's hands and creating an appointment team that would include the judicial appointments committee, the prime minister and the Knesset speaker.

"This last instance shows that the government is incapable of choosing the most fitting candidate, so the choice must be given to a team that will include experts and people in the field," he said.

NRP ministers Zevulun Hammer and Yitzhak Levy abstained Friday in the vote on Bar-On's appointment, feeling they did not know enough about

him. There were also reports they decided to abstain after they found out the appointment was coordinated with Shas leader Aryeh Deri, in exchange for his support on the Hebron redeployment agreement.

Hundreds of Labor supporters demonstrated opposite the Justice Ministry in Jerusalem last night against the appointment.

The demonstrators held signs reading "Tzahi's Friends," and "If you've got Hanegbi, you've got friends." They also shouted slogans against the appointment.

Lior Horev, who organized the rally, said the appointment was "a dark deal" between Hanegbi and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, aimed at helping those close to the government who are facing prosecution, including Deri and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

TV: Hanegbi tried to give job to Bar-On's wife

JUSTICE Minister Tzahi Hanegbi tried to appoint Bina Bar-On, wife of attorney-general-designate Roni Bar-On, as Health Ministry legal adviser when he assumed the health portfolio, Channel 2 television reported last night.

At present, Bina Bar-On is an attorney at the Environment Ministry. At the time, Hanegbi was told that he would have to appoint a legal adviser who was familiar with the health field, including the National Health Law, medical ethics, and the medical profession.

Nevertheless, he decided to go ahead with the appointment. His plan was foiled, however, after it became apparent that a ministry tender would have to be issued for the post. The tender committee decided against Bar-On's candidacy, choosing Mira Heubner-Harel. (Itm)

Lebanon holds Palestinians for Katyusha attack

BEIRUT - Lebanese authorities are interrogating two radical Palestinian terrorists detained on suspicion of firing a Katyusha rocket into Israel last week, judicial sources said on Friday.

Lebanese leaders, anxious to avoid escalation of violence between Hizbullah gunmen and Israel in south Lebanon, earlier called for investigations into Wednesday's cross-border attack.

The sources confirmed a report, carried by Beirut's official National News Agency that two members of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) were arrested on Thursday in south Lebanon and were being questioned over the incident. In Damascus, a spokesman for the group - which opposes the peace process - on Friday denied responsibility for the attack.

"The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine did not fire any Katyushas against northern Israel," the DFLP spokesman told Reuters. He said the DFLP had not received any information about the arrest of two of its members in Lebanon.

It was the second Katyusha attack against Israel since the cease-fire understandings that ended the 17-day Operation Grapes of Wrath in Lebanon.

The US-brokered understanding banned attacks against civilians in

northern Israel and south Lebanon.

Israeli officials have said that Beirut was to blame for the rocket attack. An aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday the IDF would do whatever was necessary to restore calm.

Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, who also heads the pro-Syrian Amal Movement, was quoted earlier on Friday as saying that neither his Shi'ite group nor Hizbullah had fired the rockets into the western Galilee.

"It [the Katyusha] was fired by factions that must be pinpointed through a thorough investigation and must be held accountable for what they are doing," Berri told members of the Lebanese Press Association on Thursday.

Hizbullah and Amal have denied any links to Wednesday's incident. The DFLP and other Damascus-based groups have bases in south Lebanon which they use to launch attacks on Israel.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi was quoted by the daily *an-Nahar* as saying: "Israel must not be given a pretext to undertake new assaults. Firing Katyushas is useless militarily and it does not hurt Israel but can harm Lebanon."

Israel has filed a complaint over the incident with the committee

monitoring the understandings reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath.

In a statement issued Friday, the committee confirmed that at least one Katyusha rocket was fired from south Lebanon into Israel last Wednesday but did not reprimand Lebanon. The group, comprising the United States, France, Syria, Lebanon and Israel, said the attack violated the understanding that bans firing at civilians in both Israel and Lebanon.

"By unanimity, the Monitoring Group accepted as factual that at least one Katyusha rocket was fired into Israel from the area of El-Kleila in Lebanon," said the statement, issued after a seven-hour meeting called by Israel in the coastal town of Nakoura, headquarters of the UN peacekeepers in south Lebanon.

The monitoring group urged Beirut to intensify its efforts to prevent such incidents and "welcomed the latest measures taken by the Lebanese government in this respect."

In another development, a South Lebanese Army force on Friday detonated three roadside bombs that had been situated near Kafr Aitri in the western sector of the security zone. The bombs, linked by a timing device, were aimed at causing a large number of casualties.

BAR-ON

[the government's] world view," he said. "I think it was this way in the past as well."

Ben-Yair, for instance, was widely considered to have been chosen by prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in the expectation that he would identify with the government's interests. Unlike Bar-On, however, he had no open party affiliation.

Law professor and Meretz MK Amnon Rubinstein sharply disputed Hanegbi's statement, noting that it was a Labor government, for instance, which appointed Shamgar as attorney-general. Shamgar was considered to be closely affiliated with the Likud ideologically.

"The appointment of the attorney-general was never political," Rubinstein said. "[Bar-On] is a political creature, a party man - something we avoided all these years like a dangerous fire."

"A party man, a member of the Likud's central committee... couldn't [successfully] fill a position like this even if he were an angel. [because] there is also the issue of how things look," he said, noting that even if Bar-On's decisions were totally apolitical, there would always be some who would suspect him of politicization because of his background.

Rubinstein also charged that Bar-On lacked the necessary qualifications. The last two attorney-generals have been district court judges, while the previous two were law professors, he said. Bar-On is simply an attorney.

Similar complaints were heard from other opposition MKs. Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen, for instance, charged that Bar-On had been appointed to help the government circumvent the law. MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) called the appointment "the greatest injustice the government could have done... to the rule of law in Israel."

Netanyahu rejected these charges. "What is required of the attorney-general is that he always have the rule of law and the public good in the forefront of his mind," Netanyahu said, according to Itim. "I have no doubt that attorney Bar-On will keep the public good and the rule of law in the forefront of his mind, with no favoritism."



Brig. Fayed Zaidan (center), chairman of Palestinian Airlines, and Sheikh Youssef of the Palestinian religious authorities (second from left) stand with pilots before the airline's maiden flight Friday from Egypt to Saudi Arabia. (AP)

Bureaucracy, fog and a maiden flight for Palestinian Airlines

PORT SAID (AP) - Palestinian Airlines had its maiden flight Friday, carrying a group of pilgrims to Saudi Arabia with the Palestinian pilot calling the flight "a historic day in my life."

"I cannot describe my feelings. It's the dream of my life come true," said Jamal al-Hawa before he took off in a Dutch-made Fokker-50 for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, with 48 Palestinian passengers aboard.

Al-Hawa, who trained as a pilot in the former Yugoslavia, said the Palestinian Airlines maiden voyage serves as "a great symbol for the Palestinians in their endeavors to set the foundations of our independent state."

But the flight - delayed two days by bureaucracy and nearly three hours by fog - also shows how far the Palestinians are from wresting from Israel an agreement to create their own nation.

Flights by the Palestinian carrier were originally expected to fly from the autonomous Gaza Strip, but Palestinian officials said that was blocked by disagreements with Israel over security arrangements.

Nahi Manaa, regional manager for the Palestinian Airlines in Cairo, said Thursday he did not expect an agreement on flights from Gaza until one was reached on the Hebron redeployment.

After it was decided to fly to Saudi Arabia from this Egyptian port on the Mediterranean, the flights were delayed for two days in getting proper landing permits from the Saudis. Fog then put back the take off from 7:30 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.

Palestinian Airlines was established on paper after Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser

Arafat set up the self-rule authority in Gaza in 1994.

It has two Fokker-50 planes, with a capacity of 50 passengers, and Manaa said the carrier has 12 internationally qualified pilots and others now training to join the staff.

Each of the two Fokkers will make four trips through tomorrow to take some 330 Palestinian pilgrims to Jeddah, from where they will travel to the Moslem holy shrines in Mecca. Plans call for bus passengers from the Gaza Strip hours before each flight.

A pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia is one of the five principal rituals of Islam. The official pilgrimage season follows Ramadan, the Moslem holy month of fasting that began Friday. But many Moslems prefer to perform a lesser pilgrimage during Ramadan.

Arafat: Peace in danger

ELDAD BECK
PARIS

PALESTINIAN Authority leader Yasser Arafat increased his criticism of the government's position toward peace talks over the weekend, saying peace "is in danger."

During a short visit to Paris Friday, Arafat accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet of introducing a new logic that threatens to bring the peace process to total collapse and of sabotaging the peace agreements already signed, despite American efforts to save them.

Arafat was at an international symposium here in memory of late French president Francois Mitterrand. He held meetings with President Jacques Chirac and Labor leader Shimon Peres, before leaving for Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Hebron.

In his speech to the symposium, Arafat said: "We hope that we can, in cooperation with our peace partners, reach a solid foundation to make peace achievable on the basis of respect and coexistence."

"Our way to reach this new phase has not been easy. We have faced a new logic which has created new risks surrounded by extremism and intransigence. The results of the last Israeli election put the entire peace process in the verge of

total collapse. Not just in matters relating to the future of the peace process, but also concerning the agreements which we are trying to complete, including the agreement on Hebron and the redeployment and pulling back from the rest of Palestinian lands, and concerning the principles which are considered as some of the terms of reference of the peace process, like the land for peace principle."

Arafat warned that the continuance and consolidation of Israel's settlement policy will make the principle of land for peace an empty slogan.

"We would like here to draw the attention of the world to the consequences which would result of what is happening in our country. The peace is in danger. We must act to save the peace process from collapsing," Arafat said.

He went on to accuse Israel of putting the Palestinian territories under an economic blockade that is "beyond imagination."

Arafat met President Chirac Friday night at his own request. Chirac expressed France's support

for the Palestinian demand to respect already signed agreements and not to renegotiate them.

Arafat told journalists after his 90-minute discussion with Chirac that Netanyahu's attempt to put off for two years an Israeli pull-out from most of the West Bank was a demand that would sabotage the peace agreements, as do Israeli settlement activities and the alleged expropriation of Palestinian lands.

"We are not asking impossible things, we are asking for the accurate and sincere implementation of the agreements we have signed in Washington and in Cairo, under the auspices of Presidents Clinton and Mubarak," Arafat said.

After meeting with Arafat for more than one hour, Peres said he got the impression Arafat wishes to continue negotiating with Israel, although he considers the Israeli government's stand to be extremely tough. Peres described his meeting with Arafat as a "private discussion" and refused to give any details about its content. Peres told reporters he did not convey any message from Netanyahu to Arafat. However, he said he will inform Netanyahu about what he heard from the Palestinian leader.

NETANYAHU'S

(Continued from Page 1)

Netanyahu did not make the ministers privy to his plan, lest they should have foiled it. He chose to pull a surprise and, as Ariel Sharon pointed out to ministers as chagrined as himself, "there is no choice but to approve."

Netanyahu took a calculated risk. He no doubt realized that the Likud and Betar background of his appointee and the lack of legal glory in his resume would raise the roof. But his bet was that when the noise died down he would have someone he could trust at his side - something quite acceptable again from Netanyahu's Americanized vantage point. If he does end up with an A-G he gets along with him in the long run have emerged the winner.

The extent to which some of the Likud's own ministers opposed the appointment nevertheless astounded many in the party. Inside the Likud, it is easily conceded that Ze'ev Binyamin Begin's opposition (the only vote cast against the appointment) was based on genuine principle. He is just that high-minded sort, despite the fact that in the last Likud leadership primaries Bar-On supported Begin and not Netanyahu.

In the Likud it was particularly noted that stiff opposition to Bar-On came from Jerusalemite ministers who must have known him from the local branch. They say that Bar-On is earthy, not cold and distant like his predecessors. But Likud insiders assume he also made enemies inside the party in various internal squabbles and that these may well have contributed to the opposition his appointment encountered among the party's own cabinet contingent. The very Likud activity which members of the opposition harp upon is also what grated on fellow Likudniks.

All that did not concern Netanyahu, whose objective was to appoint a man he could trust. Likud rumormongers say he even earmarked Yitzhak Molcho for the job - the lawyer negotiating for him with Arafat - but that Molcho turned down the post. As things are seen from the Prime Minister's Office, Netanyahu doesn't have to send his candidate out to lobby among the ministers and win a popularity contest. If the controversial appointment survives, Netanyahu will have made his point and won the round.

RAMADAN

(Continued from Page 1)

and drink in private during the days of Ramadan to avoid being stigmatized. Families are usually tolerant toward members who do not fast. Observance is more common among women than men.

On Friday, the first day of the fast, orders were issued to all patrolmen in Gaza to look out for Ramadan offenders, said Lt. Ahmed Ali Hashem of the Gaza police. "During the day, in all of the Gaza Strip, we didn't find anyone," Hashem said.

The chief Moslem cleric in

Jerusalem, Ikrama Sabri, said that in recent years, he has seen an increase in the number of people fasting, in part due to the presence of a Palestinian government. "The presence of a firm authority serves religion," Sabri said.

Some 70,000 worshippers came to Al-Aksa Mosque compound for Friday noon prayers.

About 3,000 police, on the alert for bombing attacks by Palestinian militants, patrolled near the mosques, closed downtown streets and frisked young Palestinian men. However, the prayers ended without incident. (AP)

(Continued from Page 1)
state devote more attention and resources to combating white-collar crimes.

However, Hanegbi said another factor was Bar-On's ideological identification with the government's positions.

"In my opinion, a government must, among other criteria, appoint [an attorney-general] according to whether the candidate is, on a basic level, close to

With great sorrow we announce the passing of
HYMIE CANTOR ז"ל
formerly of Liverpool, England
The funeral will take place today, January 12, 1997,
at 1 p.m. at Sole Yehoshua Cemetery, Naveh David, Haifa,
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Edith Cantor
Ruth Lewis and family

With deep sorrow we announce the death of our
beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother
LEAH BARNETT
The funeral will take place today,
Sunday, January 12, 1997, at 3 p.m. at Kibbutz Tzora
The Family
and Kibbutz Tzora

To Trevor Zucker and family
We share your sorrow on the passing of your
MOTHER
Your colleagues at Astea Israel

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Ben-Gurion University of the Negev has made a sizable donation to LIBI within the course of a special day-long program broadcast by Radio Darom.

In recognition of the donation, Maj.-Gen. (Res.) Danny Matt, chairman of LIBI, presented a plaque to Dr. Avishai Braverman, president of Ben-Gurion University.

In the picture: Maj.-Gen. (Res.) Danny Matt (l.), Dr. Avishai Braverman, and Esther Nagid, chairwoman of Beersheba Friends of LIBI.
(Photo: Nadav Neuhaus)

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Protesters storm Bulgarian parliament

VESELIN TOSHKOV
SOFIA

SWINGING clubs and firing guns, police broke through the ranks of some 50,000 protesters yesterday to free lawmakers trapped inside Bulgaria's Parliament building. Dozens of people were injured.

The protesters had been blockading more than 100 legislators from Bulgaria's governing Socialist Party since Friday to demand new elections, complaining of low wages, high inflation and rampant crime.

"This is the anger of people who have nothing to lose," said Vasil Sokolov, parliamentary leader of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces.

Bulgaria's president summoned top leaders in an attempt to persuade the ruling Socialists, who the opposition says have lost public confidence, to agree to early elections. But the meeting ended without an agreement, said a spokesman for President Zhelyu Zhelev.

The Socialists insist they have

a mandate — won in December 1994 elections — to govern and will not bow to demands from the street. Opposition leaders also called for a nationwide strike and civil disobedience.

Yesterday, students from Sofia University called a nationwide student strike. At a meeting at the university, students from throughout the Bulgarian capital offered their support.

Although inspired by 53 days of mostly peaceful marches against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in neighboring Yugoslavia, the protest in Sofia quickly turned violent.

The rampage started Friday when demonstrators broke through police cordons and into Parliament offices, where they smashed furniture and computers and set one office on fire.

Almost 100 demonstrators and at least 10 police were injured. A former anti-communist prime minister, Filip Dimitrov, was hospitalized with a concussion after being beaten in the melee. State TV showed some protesters with head injuries and said they had been beaten by police, who

also used tear gas.

Over the day, the crowd of demonstrators grew from 20,000 to more than 50,000. They chanted, "Red Mafia!" and "Elections now!" and said they would not let Socialists out of the building until they agreed to new elections.

Authorities sent in anti-terrorist troops, and the Cabinet said the Interior Ministry had been given power to put an end to "illegal actions."

Early yesterday, four buses arrived at the building to rescue the lawmakers. When protesters tried to stop them, police fired warning shots and clubbed them.

"Murderers!" the crowd shouted, as hundreds of police in full riot gear pushed the protesters aside to clear a path for the trapped legislators.

Sofia's emergency hospital treated dozens of people, mainly for head injuries, nurse Nely Hristova said.

Well into the morning, the crowd finally broke up. Police sealed off much of the downtown area.

Later yesterday, 10,000 people



An opposition protester shouts slogans against Bulgaria's ruling Socialist party in front of the parliament office in Sofia yesterday.

demonstrated peacefully in a central square in Sofia.

"We start preparations for a nationwide political strike," Ivan Kostov, leader of the main anti-Communist Union of Democratic

Forces, told them. "The political and economic life in the whole country should be paralyzed."

President Zhelev — an opponent of the Socialists — went on national TV and radio to blame

Socialists for the uprising.

He said he supported the protesters taking to the streets "after being reduced to this miserable and humiliating state," but did not approve of violence and

destruction. The violence occurred on the fourth day of demonstrations in Bulgaria, where the economy has had its worst year since the end of Communist rule in 1989.

Sporadic bread shortages began last summer. The economy still is 90 percent state-owned, and the Socialists have showed little inclination to privatize. Inflation last year topped 300 percent.

Crime also has spread. Police have yet to solve the slaying of former Socialist Premier Andrei Lukanov, shot outside his home last October.

Faced with a chorus of criticism, Zhan Videnov resigned in December as both premier and Socialist Party leader. Interior Minister Nikolai Dobrev was nominated Wednesday by the Socialists to be the new premier, but the opposition says he has no economic expertise.

Zhelev said that because of the crisis, he would not let the Socialists make Dobrev premier. He was to have given them the mandate to form a new government today.

Dobrev spoke with President-elect Peter Stoyanov — an anti-Communist who succeeds Zhelev later this month — and agreed to begin negotiations between the Socialists and the state-run BTA news agency reported. The next elections are not scheduled until 1998. (AP)

Kremlin: Yeltsin has stabilized

MOSCOW — Boris Yeltsin's condition stabilized yesterday, but the Kremlin gave no clue as to whether doctors had achieved a breakthrough in their battle with his pneumonia.

A Russian newspaper contemplated whether Yeltsin might consider stepping down, fueling debate over his ability to rule following heart surgery and now pneumonia.

"Regrettably, it is obvious that the president has no strength left to attend to affairs of the state properly," the liberal *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspaper said of Yeltsin's struggle with pneumonia in hospital.

The presidential press service said doctors at the Kremlin hospital were treating Yeltsin with antibiotics and described him as "somewhat" more active yesterday.

The chief Kremlin doctor, Sergei Mironov, says Yeltsin has pneumonia in both lungs. On Friday, he said doctors had not yet made a "decisive breakthrough."

The terse Kremlin statement yesterday said Yeltsin's condition had "stabilized" and described his temperature and blood pressure as normal, but it did not go into detail.

Yeltsin's latest illness, which Mironov described as "disturbing and sad," has underscored the 65-year-old president's fragility and left Russia once again without a hands-

on leader. Mironov said Yeltsin might get out of the hospital next week, but would probably need at least three more weeks to recuperate.

"Let doctors and God help Boris Nikolayevich," said *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. "But someone should also have pity on Russia, more and more resembling a drifting piece of ice."

Yeltsin spent the last half of 1996 on the sidelines with heart trouble. After undergoing a quintuple bypass on Nov. 3, he returned to his Kremlin office two weeks ago vowing to tackle Russia's most pressing problems.

Doctors say the pneumonia is unrelated to his heart problems, but it has left Yeltsin, who is said to be an impatient patient, depressed.

"Willingly giving up power seems out of character for Yeltsin, a man who has dedicated his life to gaining and keeping power, and who says he wants to be in a position to guarantee the reforms he has overseen are successful."

"He is first of all a man of power," former presidential press spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov once said of Yeltsin. "Power is his ideology, his friend, his concubine, his mistress, his passion."

(Agencies)

IRA threatens death to informers

BELFAST (Reuters) — The IRA issued a death threat to police informants on yesterday in a bid to stem tip-offs that have foiled a string of bombing raids in British-ruled Northern Ireland.

Leaders of the Irish Republican Army Belfast Brigade issued the warning as police applauded the public for a flow of information thwarting several attacks in a recent upsurge of violence.

The IRA statement said that "the Belfast Brigade of the IRA will take action against anyone placing the lives of our volunteers in danger in this way."

The warning came as a 27-year-old man was remanded in custody in a Belfast court on a murder conspiracy charge linked to an IRA rocket attack at the city's main law courts last Monday.

"Over the past number of weeks the Belfast Brigade of the IRA has become aware that a number of people in the Belfast area have compromised operations and placed the lives of our volunteers in danger," their statement said.

"These individuals have informed the RUC of the presence of (IRA) volunteers...by phone, even after our volunteers made it clear to them who they represented."

The warning was published in a weekly newspaper, the West Belfast-based *Andersontown News*. The IRA flourished in parts of West Belfast when the current era of violence started 27 years ago.

Seven killed in Colombia nightclub attack

BOGOTA (AP) — Gunmen killed seven people and wounded four early yesterday in an attack on a nightclub just outside the western city of Cali believed related to prostitution, police said.

The five gunmen opened fire with 38-caliber revolvers and 7.65mm pistols on people who had been dancing at the *Reservados Dalma* club in the city's Santa Monica district and fled in an automobile, said Cali's police chief, Col. Benigno Pineros.

Early indications suggested the killings were related to a refusal to pay commissions related to prostitution, Pineros said by telephone. Six men and one woman were killed. The wounded included a

20-year-old woman hospitalized in critical condition with three bullet wounds in the head, police said.

Also yesterday, authorities said guerrillas killed three police officers and wounded seven residents in an attack Friday on the town of Riosucio near the Panamanian border in Choco state.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia rebels held Riosucio for eight hours, blocking transit on the Atrato River, the military said.

Riosucio is in a remote jungle region where leftist rebels are at war with paramilitary groups bankrolled by landowners and tacitly supported by the military.

Sinatra still hospitalized

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Frank Sinatra remained hospitalized yesterday for treatment of a heart attack, but the outlook was good for the 81-year-old entertainer, his spokeswoman said. Sinatra, was with her ailing husband and other family members had visited. Reynolds said Sinatra described as "an uncomplicated heart attack."

It was the legendary singer's third hospitalization in two months.

"The prognosis is good," spokeswoman Susan Reynolds said.

Sinatra's wife, Barbara, was with her ailing husband and other family members had visited. Reynolds said

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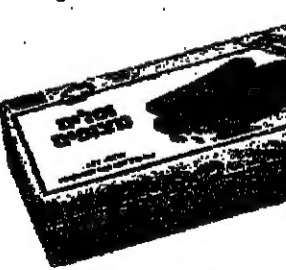


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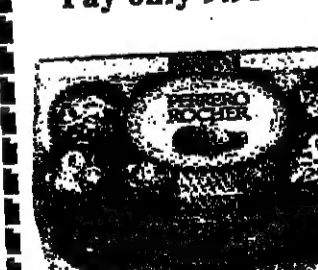


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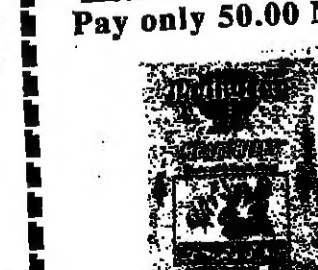


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Peruvian president hopeful over hostages

LIMA (AP) — Looking calm and collected after weeks under pressure, President Alberto Fujimori said he is confident that his government will be able to win the release of 74 hostages that rebels hold at gunpoint.

In an interview with The Associated Press at the Government Palace, Fujimori said rebel leader Nestor Cerna has the pragmatic negotiating style of a union leader, and appears willing to make concessions.

He was optimistic about a peaceful outcome to the standoff, but warned it may take weeks of patient, tough negotiating.

Fujimori joked that he was getting used to crisis situations after 6 1/2 years of governing this turbulent Andean nation.

"I really have had so many challenges," he said, smiling. "This one is more delicate, of course. But even so, I am taking it calmly."

Leftist rebels of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement stormed a cocktail party at the Japanese ambassador's residence Dec. 17, seizing more than 500 hostages.

They have released most of the hostages, but are holding 74 to demand the freedom of jailed Tupac Amaru comrades.

Fujimori announced earlier Friday that the government had renewed talks with the hostage-holders via a two-way radio, ending a two-week impasse. Negotiator Domingo Palermo spoke for several minutes with Cerna.

More Belgrade demos, gov't said to be bending

GEORGE JAHN
BELGRADE

SEEKING to blunt unrest, Serbia's government told protesters yesterday that it will push for quick decisions on election disputes that have turned into a major weapon against President Slobodan Milosevic.

The promise came amid reports that Milosevic had fired his premier and was preparing to purge other key aides. The moves were clearly an effort by the authoritarian president to save face and regain the initiative in his nearly eight-week struggle against the pro-democracy movement.

Undeterred, protesters launched another mass rally designed to back demands that the regime restore opposition victories in all 14 towns won by the anti-Milosevic coalition in Nov. 17 municipal voting.

About 20,000 people chanted "resign, resign," as opposition leaders ridiculed reports that the Milosevic camp was ready for new compromise.

"We do not want to comment on rumors," said one of the leaders, Vuk Draskovic. "We know why we have been here for more than 50 days, and we shall continue!"

News that the government appeared to be bending was announced by student protesters after meeting Cabinet ministers early in the day.

Representatives of the government agreed it was necessary to fully respect the will of citizens expressed at the local elections," said a statement released by the students and signed by their representatives and the government ministers.

The government pledged to order the Justice Ministry to direct local courts hearing appeals on the elections dispute to speed up their

work, said the statement. It also promised to examine students' requests that the anti-protest dean of Belgrade university be fired.

"I think the students' protest body can be satisfied," commented Dusan Vasiljevic, a students' spokesman. Nonetheless, the students planned to rally against Milosevic early in the evening, after a separate protest organized by the political opposition.

The students had demanded to see Premier Mirko Marjanovic, but were told he was "absent," said Vasiljevic. They met instead with the education minister and two deputy premiers to demand removal of police blocking anti-Milosevic protests now in their eighth week.

Independent media have reported that Marjanovic, a close aide of Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic, has been ousted in clashes between hardliners and liberals within the ruling Socialist party.

An Associated Press source close to Milosevic's ruling Socialists confirmed that Marjanovic resigned. The source, who asked for anonymity, also confirmed independent media reports that Goran Percevic, a vice president of Milosevic's party, and Dragoljub Milanovic, the head of the state-run television, Milosevic's mouthpiece, have been sacked.

Marjanovic, Percevic and Milanovic are believed to be leading the hardliners who oppose any concessions to the opposition. Milosevic, seeking a way out of the worst crisis since he came to power in 1987, appears to be willing to sacrifice some of his closest associates to save face.

Students and the opposition



A policeman smiles as he gets an opposition coalition leaflet from a female demonstrator during a protest in Belgrade yesterday. (Reuters)

coalition Zajedno, or Together, have held daily protests against Milosevic's annulment of Nov. 17 election results in Belgrade, Nis and 12 other towns won by the opposition.

Some 30,000 students managed to outlast the police Thursday and marched through Belgrade overnight. Police have blocked

marches through the capital since late last month.

On Wednesday, Milosevic's government acknowledged the opposition had won Nis, Serbia's second city, along with three lesser towns conceded earlier. But so far it has adamantly refused to give up the biggest prize, control of Belgrade.

The independent *Telegraf* daily reported yesterday that Milosevic might recognize all opposition victories as soon as this weekend. The move would be followed with big changes in his ruling post-communist party.

Control of Belgrade and Nis would give the opposition — better organized and united than ever

before — a chance to dent Milosevic's iron grip on the media. Milosevic's Socialist and the allied neo-Communist party of his wife, Mirjana Markovic, met Friday and issued a statement pointing out that the Socialists had won the majority of towns in the municipal elections, saying those results "cannot be denied." (AP)

Holocaust hoax prompts free speech debate

EVANSTON, Illinois (AP) — Exiled to a dusty office in an obscure corner of Northwestern University's engineering school, professor Arthur Butz has been an academic pariah for two decades for declaring that the Holocaust didn't happen.

Now he's found a forum — Northwestern's site on the World Wide Web — to reach millions of people with theories that historians find absurd.

With a few keystrokes, computer users can find Butz's argument that the Nazi genocide of the Jews is "a widespread but erroneous belief," and that typhus and other factors were responsible for the deaths.

Northwestern, while repudiating Butz's beliefs, won't interfere with his right to express them on the Internet through the university.

"I believe his views are monstrous," said university President Henry Bienen. "But I don't want to set myself up as a censor of his views. Who decides what's distasteful? Do you make general law around bad cases?"

Butz's posting has infuriated any number of groups, who argue the school has no reason to give the tenured professor what amounts to a free billboard.

The issue has been muddled by the university's decision not to

rehire another teacher who was so outraged by Butz's views that he taught a lesson on the Holocaust in an engineering class.

The teacher, Sheldon Epstein, was told last fall that his contract would not be renewed, at least in part because he strayed from the course material in assigning students to research and write about the Holocaust.

"I read his Web page and said this stuff doesn't belong on Northwestern's site," said Epstein, who polled his students and found that many knew little or nothing about the Holocaust. "I owed it to my students."

Butz was trained in engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Minnesota. His area of expertise includes arcane fields such as digital signal processing.

Among students of the Holocaust, though, he is notorious. Although he has no formal training in history, he is the author of a 1976 book, *The Hoax of the 20th Century*, has published his arguments in the student newspaper, and is prominent among Holocaust deniers.

Butz, a soft-spoken man with thick glasses, defends his right to his Web page. "As long as the university has this server available for personal use, then it's

perfectly appropriate for me to have this," Butz said.

"The question is whether the university has the right to say, 'We're not comfortable having that promoted under the aegis of Northwestern University,'" countered Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Legal experts said that, as a private institution, the university can place limits on what is posted on its Internet server.

Some schools, including Cornell University, have gone that route, devising guidelines for what is and is not acceptable on the university's Internet server.

Abraham Haddad, chairman of the electrical engineering department at Northwestern, said the difference between Epstein and Butz is that Butz keeps his opinions out of the classroom.

A university source who spoke on condition of anonymity said the school is seeking to buy out Butz to get him to leave Northwestern. Butz and Bienen refused to comment.

In any case, Haddad said the department hopes Butz, 62, will leave soon. "He's marginal. He teaches his classes, that's about it," Haddad said. "We give him an office where no one can find him."

New row over Berlin Holocaust memorial

BERLIN (Reuters) — Germany's long-delayed project to build a memorial for Jews murdered in the Holocaust ran into trouble on Friday when a panel of planners was unable to agree on what sort of monument they wanted.

Ignatz Bubis, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said it was important that the monument be built and rejected a suggestion by one historian on the panel that the existing designs be discarded.

"We have been at this now for over 10 years and it is time we began seeing this monument realised," Bubis said at the start of a three-day meeting.

"I ask that we not begin again from square one."

Debate on the design raged since an artist's competition in the summer of 1995 produced two winners, whose ideas were combined.

The new monument, to be located a short walk from the Reichstag parliament building in the heart of Berlin, was to have taken the form of a gravestone the size of a football field with the names of 4.2 million Jewish dead which are on record.

That plan, however, was slammed by members of the Jewish community, who said it erased the memory of the anonymous victims of the Holocaust, and by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who called it "too gigantic."

Berlin Culture Senator Peter Radunski welcomed the controversy as a vital discussion for Germans about their past.

"This conflict on the right design keeps the memories alive more than a harmonious and problem-free ritual ever could," Radunski said.

Historian Eberhard Jaeckel, addressing the panel, said there important reasons why the project had to be completed.

"The murders did not take place in only one location, and certainly not only in Germany," Jaeckel said.

"Those murdered do not have a grave and therefore one central memorial, in Germany, should be built for them."

But another historian, Jurgen Kocka, doubted that any of the proposed designs could fulfil the intended purpose of a national Holocaust memorial.

"A memorial in Berlin must express the sadness, the excesses of inhumanity and above all, must express our shame," Kocka said.

"I do not know if there is a memorial that can depict all of this."

The group of 60 historians, artists, politicians and community leaders will meet again in February and April before making its final recommendations for the 15 million mark (\$11 million) project.

UK minister enrages Scots with beggars comment

LONDON (Reuters) — A government minister stirred up a hornet's nest of criticism yesterday when he said most of the beggars on Britain's streets were Scottish.

Home Office Minister David Maclean, himself a Scot, said the homeless chose to live that way themselves.

"I always give them something — I give them a piece of my

mind," Maclean told a newspaper. "Most of them are Scottish and I've never met one yet who politely and gently asked for money."

"There are no genuine beggars. Those who are in need have got all the social benefits they require."

The opposition Labor Party said his remarks were an insult to Scots everywhere.

Outraged Labor member of parliament Henry McLeish, also a Scot, said: "David Maclean's comments are disgraceful and an insult to fellow Scots."

The plight of homeless beggars has become a hot topic in Britain since Labor leader Tony Blair this week backed a New York-style "zero tolerance" approach to policing the streets in which there would be a crackdown even on minor offenses.

Rescued yachtsman thought he would die

THREDBO, Australia (AP) — After four days in an air pocket of his overturned yacht, a makeshift hammock holding him above the icy Antarctic seas, Tony Bullimore thought he might die.

"I started asking myself questions like, 'Am I really preparing my grave?'" the British sailor said yesterday aboard the Australian warship that rescued him.

He was lying down during the interview with Australian television, wrapped in a thermal blanket.

Bullimore, 56, was competing in a round-the-world yacht race when the keel of his boat cracked during a storm, like "breaking a matchstick."

"It just went snap, and within seconds — literally within a few seconds — the boat was sitting upside down with me sitting inside the boat, sitting and standing and sliding around on the roof with water slowly seeping in," he said. "And as you can imagine, in a major storm it's not a very nice way to hang about really, is it?"

Bullimore kept dry during his ordeal by rigging a hammock of cargo nets in the overturned cabin. He was rescued on Tuesday by the crew of the HMAS Adelaide, who had feared Bullimore had been swept away to sea.

The rescuers tapped on the hull of the boat, and were elated when they heard tapping back. Bullimore then emerged from the water, after swimming out from under the boat in the zero degree Celsius water.

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Impressive Internet site will boost interest in Knesset

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

The Knesset may not be the most dignified, intelligent or disciplined parliament on earth, but at least its new Internet site is one of the most effective, interesting and advanced sites to reflect the past and present of a democratic legislature.

Launched a few weeks ago at a festive ceremony in the parliament's Chagall Hall, the cyberspace site (<http://www.knesset.gov.il>) has so far been visited by tens of thousands of people here and abroad.

The editor of the site, Dr. Susan Hagis Rolef, and the head of the Knesset's computer department, Arif Fischel, believe the Web site will restore some of the parliament's lost prestige and inject healthy public involvement into the legislative process.

For the ceremonial launch, hundreds of Knesset staffers, computer experts and other guests filled the hall, whose bay windows overlooking Jerusalem were temporarily covered with black nylon sheets in order to better see the movie-screen-size on-line demonstration. Among the enthusiastic participants were Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Communications Minister Limor Livnat. The premier and Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon symbolically cut a red ribbon — not with scissors, but on the screen, by manipulating a computer mouse.

Initiated by Likud MK Michael Eitan and implemented by a large number of computer professionals and Knesset staffers, the site allows Internet users around the world to hear live action from the plenum, listen to a recording of David Ben-Gurion's declaration of the establishment of the state or Menachem Begin's Knesset welcome to Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, study the biographies of all MKs since 1948, check an updated calendar of Knesset events and send personal input to MKs about burning issues.

Users are able to examine full texts of bills at various stages of the legislative process and send personalized e-mail to individual MKs, voicing their views. One can even search the site to find out how many times Netanyahu, for example, used the word "peace" in his plenum speeches during a specific Knesset session.

The premier said the new site brings to Israel "Athenian democracy in a 21st-century version. Information is power, and this is what is being given to Israeli citizens. We are working towards the decentralization of information, without intermediaries. This is a big step towards the information revolution."

The premier added that the added value produced by Israeli information-technology know-how was worth more than gold or oil deposits. "This is the basis for prosperity and making Israel a great world



The Knesset website homepage can be accessed at <http://www.knesset.gov.il>

economic power. I am not exaggerating. You won't recognize the change in the country — for the better — if not in four years, then within a decade."

Communications Minister Limor Livnat noted that the Internet remains a "frightening black hole for much of the public." More must be done to educate people about this new technology, she said, and to make it more accessible.

The bulk of the hundreds of pages of information appears in Hebrew; a Knesset tour (via color photographs) of the building and Jerusalem views from its roof is presented in both languages. Historical and background information has been translated into English. An Arabic translation has not been provided, says Eitan, due to major technical problems and because "nearly all Arabic-speaking Internet surfers

have a good command of English if not Hebrew." Hatis Rolef, a Knesset library/information service staffer who spent a year preparing texts, says she had trouble even getting an accurate list of all MKs leaving since 1948. "In the existing Knesset lists, Shimon Peres was listed in the Third Knesset as having been a representative of Agudat Yisrael. And as much as I tried, I couldn't find how many MKs were

in each of the four religious parties in the First Knesset whose 16 MKs ran in a bloc."

She used a book by MK Amnon Rubinstein on constitutional law and her own *Political Dictionary of the State of Israel* for information. She also sat down with retiring Knesset Clerk Shmuel Ya'acovson, the Knesset's accountant, Ya'acov Lemberger (who is also about to retire) and other veteran staffers to reconstruct missing information. Former Likud MK Elihu Ben-Elissar was helpful in checking facts and making sure there was no unfair partisanship. Dudu Rashty, a Hebrew University Internet "genius," was responsible for much of the planning. The Internet site operates through the country's largest provider, Netvision, and is not linked directly to the Knesset's central computer, so that it cannot be "infected" by viruses from outside.

Fischel says that about 70% of the people who have gone into the site so far are local and the rest are from abroad. The proportion of those who have sent e-mail to MKs is about half and half; about 100 e-mail messages come in on an average day. Fischel says the system will no longer accept e-mail messages for ministers, because it is too much work for computer department staffers; instead, correspondents are referred to each ministry's Internet site. He hopes to present photographs of MKs who are speaking in the plenum at any moment to accompany the site's real-time audio broadcasts of Knesset sessions.

Except for aficionados like MKs Eitan and Meir Sheetrit, most MKs still know little or nothing about the Internet. Those who don't collect their e-mail receive it delivered in printed form. But a growing number of them are asking their parliamentary assistants how it works.

Fischel notes that "rules of the game" are being prepared to ensure that the system isn't abused by MKs for propaganda purposes. A moderator watches what goes out. Hatis Rolef notes that one of the most exciting developments are the on-line discussion groups of bills presented to the Knesset, and that MKs were bound to pay attention to outsiders' views.

The Knesset site has so impressed others in government that it is sure to lead to the establishment of other state-linked sites.

"When Supreme Court President Justice Aharon Barak saw it, he said he wanted a Supreme Court site too," says Fischel. "The Finance Ministry has one too," says Fischel. "The Finance Ministry has put the whole state budget, line by line, on its site, and anybody can know exactly how public money is allocated. Perhaps even more important than the Knesset site itself is the fact that it will lead to the easy access of a wide variety of government information."



The 'I Love Israel' CD-ROM gives a good general overview of the country to visitors. (Mike Horowitz)

(Almost) all you need to know about Israel on CD-ROM

I Love Israel, a CD-ROM in Hebrew and English (with parts translated into Russian) for all ages, produced by Robin Publishers, distributed exclusively by The Jerusalem Post Books Department, NIS 275, complete with Hebrew-English/English-Hebrew pocket dictionary and flash cards.

Rating: four-and-a-half stars out of five.

The 1996 tourism statistics show that many would-be visitors — Jews and non-Jews — were deterred from visiting Israel by frightening headlines that make the country seem in the throes of chaos. If the Tourism Ministry were to distribute a disk like this to sympathetic Christians and Jews abroad, users would get a more balanced view of Israel as a fun, varied and exciting place — and even prepare for their visit with Hebrew lessons.

It was initiated by Amos Rolnik, whose publishing firm has for four decades produced postcards, posters, T-shirts and other tourism and Hebrew-teaching paraphernalia. He approached London's World ORT Union, which enthusiastically supported his CD-ROM idea, along with MailMedia, Melitz and the World Zionist Organization's Department of Education and Culture in the Diaspora. The result is a very imaginative and enjoyable program for potential supporters of, and visitors to, Israel.

The user is first introduced to the Hebrew letters, both printed and cursive, with a computerized English-Hebrew, Russian-Hebrew dictionary containing thousands of words used in daily conversations (which would also be helpful to new immigrants already living here). Click a word, and the Hebrew and its translation is sounded out. You also get a Jewish quotation printed on the bottom of the screen, and an interesting explanation of the origins of Hebrew, including the ancient pictograph for each letter. To help users remember have produced an animated scene to illustrate: a figure takes a bite out of the letter *alef* to illustrate the word *ochel*, which

DISK-COVERY

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

begins with *alef* and means food.

There is also a Hebrew conversation guide especially for tourists.

The Hebrew lessons are not a replacement for ulpan, but if studiously followed will give a good first grasp of the language; a multiple-choice quiz on the words and letters is a nice touch.

Another section, aimed at novices, presents "Haitikva" in song and bilingual text; 15 humorous proposals for an "improved" Israeli flag; a gallery of stereotypical Israeli characters; the biblical origins of 15 popular Hebrew names; and a short explanation of four popular Bible stories, illustrated with 15 children's drawings.

There is also a "Map of the Sea of Galilee," giving background on Jewish sages, settings and terms from ancient times.

A full-color, 10-minute video of Israeli scenes, from the Golan to Eilat, is presented; just sit back and watch (the film is not for hardim, who would disapprove of the shots of girls in bikinis). For a more active role, click dots on a map to see a gallery of dozens of beautiful photos. (For some reason, Beersheba, Israel's fourth-largest city, is totally and unfairly left out of both the video and photo section.)

The disk is topped off with an imaginative feature teaching Hebrew using comics: there are 92 animated frames (an English translation can be clicked on if you wish) telling the story of new immigrant Ruti and (Rolnik graphically) David, falling in love, getting married and producing a baby (who won't have to buy this disk to learn Hebrew).

My only criticism is that Rolnik was trying to reach out to several diverse groups at once: new immigrants from English-speaking countries who want to learn Hebrew; Jews in Russia, who should have a completely Russian disk of their own; Diaspora near-assimilated Jews who may not want to learn Hebrew; and

Christian tourists, who may want more references to their faith as reflected in the Holy Land. But this is a very good start, and if Rolnik reaches the right market, it could produce specialized disks for each group along this model.

3-D PC Explorer, an educational CD-ROM for adults and teenagers, in Hebrew, by N.S.E. Software, 1 Rehov Hashahmal, Kiryat Ono, NIS 95.

Four-and-a-half stars out of five.

Most drivers know little more about the insides of their cars than how to fill the gas tank, the tires and the windshield-washer bottle.

Most computer users are the same. As long as it works, who cares what's a CPU (central processing unit) the big box holding all the chips, disk drives and modem).

But Amir Nativ, an experienced computer expert, decided to produce this serious yet clever disk for those who want to know how the thing works — for a computer course, general information, knowing something when you have to call the technician or being able to converse with computer "tweaks."

The clever thing is that it manages to explain a great deal even though it hardly uses any text. You start with a three-dimensional computer on your own screen; you must click on the screen-on-screen button or nothing will work. Click on the keyboard and learn what functions the various groups of keys perform; click on the screen-on-screen and learn about image resolution and 256 colors. Click on the CPU, and you'll finally understand how the various disk drives do what they do.

The on-screen, alphabetized manual opens to present dozens of subjects, each of which is illustrated with three-dimensional animation and Hebrew voice-overs.

Complex functions are explained using simple objects, such as bookshelves, an abacus, a treasure chest and rings traveling along rods. If you really get into it, DRAM, CPU bus, DMA, cache, local bus I/O and the rest of the alphabet soup of computers will no longer be a puzzle to you.

Study: Israelis are less healthy than they think

HEALTH SCAN
POST HEALTH REPORTER

Israelis may not be as healthy as they think. When Hillel Yaffe Hospital in Hadera examined a random sample of 1,000 men and women of all ages who considered themselves healthy, about 10% were found to suffer from irregular heart activity; 10% had hypertension; 35% had too-high cholesterol levels in their blood; and 16% suffered from cataracts or high intraocular pressure in their eyes.

In addition, 14% were significantly overweight and 12% had higher-than-average levels of sugar in their blood. Fully 16% of the women were found to have pathological signs for lesions (not necessarily cancerous) in the breast or cervix, and 15% of the men had an enlarged prostate.

The examinations were conducted over a period of a year, and publicized as part of a special health day organized by the Hadera Municipality, Magen David Adom, and Teva Pharmaceuticals, along with the hospital's physical exam center. All the people who underwent physical examinations felt healthy, but if not treated, their hidden conditions could become serious and even fatal.

Disclosed in the latest issue of *Merkehon Livrim* (published by Kupat Holim Clalit and the Israel Pharmacists Association), the findings were regarded as worrisome by Hillel Yaffe doctors, who stressed the importance of catching conditions in time, before they cause damage.

NEW AND OLD

Everything you need to know about geriatric services around the country is now available on a computer program at Yad Sarah branches in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Beersheba. The services are listed according to place of residence and according to topic.

The service, established in cooperation with the Joint Distribution Committee and Eshel, includes information on old-age homes, golden-age clubs, nursing services, supply of hot meals, day centers, transport services and vacations for the elderly. In addition, all services provided by Yad Sarah — including the lending of medical equipment, geriatric dental clinics, emergency beepers and meals on wheels — are on the program. Those interested in information can call any of the four branches and get answers by mail or fax.

Europe's cold, wet weather comes at Israel's expense

TELL ME WHY
JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Our winter has so far been unseasonably warm, and the weather in Europe has been very cold. Is there a connection? Do the low-pressure fronts expend themselves in Europe, leaving little in the form of rain for the Middle East? Eric, Nahariya.

Margalit Reichman, a meteorologist at the Meteorological Service in Beit Dagan, replies:

In general, if you look at the big picture, rain and cold in one region usually comes at the expense of another region. If, as is occurring in Europe, a low-pressure cold front remains for a prolonged period, the energy and moisture that it contains do expend themselves, leaving less for the Middle East. But it also happens that wintry weather in our region goes together with warmer weather in Europe. The weather goes in waves, so we hope to see more rain in January and February than we have so far.

When my child got off a roller coaster in an amusement park, he told me that for some time he felt he was still moving. When I finish walking on a treadmill, I also get the feeling that I'm speeding. What is it in the brain that causes this? Anita, Tel Aviv.

Dr. Yoel Norman, a Haifa University psychologist who is an expert in visual perception, answers:

Your question refers to the phenomenon called motion after-effect. It was first written about, referring to the "waterfall illusion," in the 19th century: if you look at a waterfall, and then turn away to look at something stationary, you feel it's moving upwards. You have satiated the brain's motion mechanism and looked at another image, providing an opposite reaction. It's the same with the treadmill. If the effect of the roller coaster lasted a long time, it's possible that the balance mechanism in the ears was involved as well.

What is the physical or chemical explanation for why hot water washes dishes, or clothes, much more easily than cold water, even without detergent? Laurie, Kfar Sava.

Prof. Nissim Garty, head of the Hebrew University's Casali Institute for Applied Chemistry in Jerusalem, replies:

Washing dirty dishes or clothing in hot water is faster and more effective than doing so in cold water. This is because the chemical bonds holding the dirt, especially the fats, are dissolved better and faster with hot water. The molecules of the dirty material free

themselves from the solid plate or piece of clothing to the rinse water more easily when hot water is used. If a detergent is used, the process is even quicker and more effective, as such chemicals assist in the solubilizing of the organic material.

NOTE: Regarding queries about a previous column's question about how to reverse the clouding of crystal washed in a dishwasher. Dr. Shimon Goldstein, chief chemist for the Shemen company (which makes dishwasher detergent), disputes the statement by Hebrew University professor Nissim Garty that such damage is reversible by using a non-ionic detergent. He says that crystal should not be put in the dishwasher, as detergents used are "too aggressive" for delicate crystal, and cause an actual change in the crystal, which cannot be reversed, rather than just a reversible change in the electrical charge.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to **TELL ME WHY**, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem, fax it to (02) 5389527, or send it by e-mail to jusie@post.co.il. Please include your first name and place of residence.

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Milosevic must go

It is both frightening and enlightening to behold how dictators who have dragged their people and their neighbors through the most frightening realities of human barbarity become naive innocents when their bluff is called.

The Belgrade government yesterday appeared to be drifting slowly to a conclusion that would take eight minutes rather than eight weeks to deduce in a normal democracy—that opposition victories at elections should be accepted because that's the way the people want it.

The Serbian government representatives agreed with the necessity that the will of the citizens expressed at local elections must be fully respected," said the Serbian deputy prime minister, who went on to claim the government had believed so all along. One therefore might wonder what all the demonstrations, international fuss and European fact-finding missions have been about for the past two months.

The opposition Zajedno coalition claimed it won in 14 of Serbia's 18 largest cities, including the capital Belgrade, but Milosevic's dictatorship annulled the victories, claiming unspecified "irregularities." The cancellation triggered an eight-week wave of daily street protests by Belgrade students and Zajedno supporters which became the most serious challenge to leftist rule in Serbia in the last 52 years. Last week the Serbian government, under enormous foreign pressure and support for the student demonstrators, ordered the election commission in the second city, Nis, to concede the ruling socialist party's election loss there.

It is not necessary to go so far back as Adolf Hitler's Berlin bunker under the rubble of Europe to find other childish dreams of impending victory floating in the surreal air only hours before the whole fantasy collapses. Today we have Slobodan Milosevic, a Balkan butcher and unrepentant communist thug. He is—as *The Washington Post* sarcastically pointed out this week—the respected leader of "the real Serbia [which] is populated almost exclusively by honest, hard-working citizens who support their government and have little patience with the demonstrations for democracy that have been snarling the streets of Belgrade for weeks." This, as the *Post* commented, is a "near mythical Serbia." But then, Bosnia, Croatia and Macedonia came near to becoming part of the Milosevic myth just as they once (along with Serbia) actually became part of the Hitlerian nightmare.

The fact that partisan Serbians fought so bravely against that twisted regime leaves the world all the sadder that Serbs and the rest of the Balkans have had to put up with this nasty dictator and his surrogate henchmen for so long. There is little the rest of the world could do about it, given Europe's stern principles of non-interference in internal politics, but the Serbs of Belgrade have proved in past weeks that nothing is so transparent as a dictator everyone has

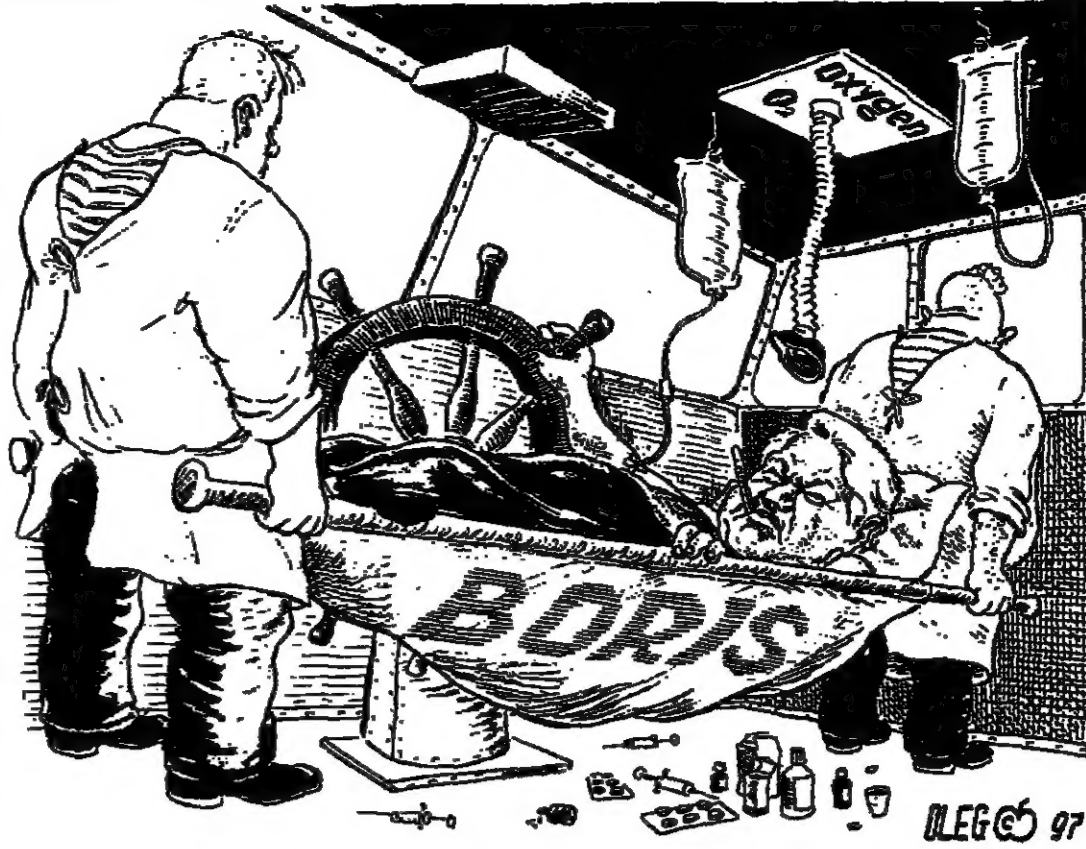
at last seen through.

If the French have long prided themselves on their stoic endurance when it comes to civilian disobedience against high-handed governments, the Serbs have proved in the wind, snow and rain of a Belgrade winter that they can out-demonstrate French unions and Czech velvet revolutionaries alike. True, Milosevic is still there—still lying and squirming and skin-saving and getting away with whatever covert oppression the international media spotlight misses but the Internet warriors of Belgrade are getting out anyway. But his days are numbered and what the Belgrade crowds are doing is not so much getting rid of a corrupt government but finding the dignity to fortify themselves for facing the future.

Over the past five years the Serb name has become synonymous across the world with war-mongering, cruelty, barbarism, and lust for conquest unparalleled in Europe since the Nazi era. Even the prisoner of war camps in Bosnia caused Europeans to recoil in horror at the recognition once again of emaciated tortured skeletons which were their fellow continental citizens. The even-handed and politically correct may continue to argue that all sides were to blame, all sides committed atrocities, war is hell—whatever—but the truth is that what happened to Yugoslavia after the fall of communism was mainly a Serbian crime, brought about by Serbian expansionism, made ugly by Serbian ethnic cleansing and a racist hatred of Bosnia's Muslims surpassed in its monstrosity only by that Nazi hatred of Jews.

Yesterday the important student element among the demonstrating crowds in Belgrade managed to inject a lighter and more humorous note into their street drama by giving soldiers and police flowers and creating street shows to entertain their elders. These are the actions of populist revolutionaries who know they have already won, because they know the ordinary policemen and soldiers are wavering between orders and enlightenment. We have seen it in Portugal, in the Philippines, in Poland and in former Czechoslovakia, and the revolution was on the winning side. The equally fed-up demonstrators of Bulgaria admit cheerfully they are now taking their cue and their example from the citizens of Belgrade.

That is not to say Milosevic and his henchmen are not still as dangerous as any cornered rats. The final success of the other populist democratic revolutions mentioned above came only because the world rallied behind them and the media maintained interest. The people's call for real European democracy must not fail in Serbia. It is time for Milosevic to go; he has done more than enough damage and his day is done. It is time for the demonstrators' voices to become the new law because they, in the streets, have redeemed the honor of decent Serbs and can take their place, with pride, among the nations of Europe, old and new.



English is everybody's

SUSAN BELLOS

I went to a birthday party recently. Not your usual bash with sushi canapés, but a rather more modest affair at the Pension Reich in Jerusalem.

It was attended by several hundred keen but aging fans of Raphael Gefen, former chief inspector of English at the Ministry of Education.

The pink-cheeked and white-haired Gefen, who retired five years ago, is not a party man in any sense of the word. "But damn it Ray," said his wife Yael, "you're 70."

Yael and Raphael Gefen are rare birds today. London-born, they joined a youth movement and came here in the '50s to help build the Labor Zionist enterprise. They were not very interested in money, and live a lifestyle in Beit Hakerem that used to be called plain living and high thinking.

In case this sounds insufferable, let me point out that everybody at this party seemed to be having a grand old time. Kibbutzniks from the north, regional inspectors, academics, teacher trainers, textbook writers, friends, neighbors and grandchildren dug into their chicken quarters and cole slaws with gusto.

Men in kippot and women wearing hats and long floppy skirts mingled cheerfully with women in sweaters, pants and Marks and Spencers blouses.

Nobody was at each other's throats. Nobody was droning on about values, Jewish or otherwise. Discourse was downright pleasant, if not bubbly.

In short, it was a gathering of jolly Jewish—and a few Arab—puritans of all shades and stripes.

The reason they had shlepped to Jerusalem on a winter afternoon to honor a man who no longer wielded any power was because Gefen changed a lot of people's lives.

The fact that Israeli English matriculation examination levels are among the highest in the world, that teacher trainers from abroad often attend workshops here, and that Israel actually exports English textbooks has a lot to do with Gefen.

Gefen's younger brother Alec got up and shared early memories of his brother when the coins ran out for the gas meter. That was part of a British working-class childhood 60 years ago.

So were the cloth school maps where large parts of the world were painted red—which, oddly enough, meant they were part of the British Empire. Millions of

people all over the world owed their allegiance to the British Crown, and they all read, if not quite spoke, what was then the King's English.

What is more, a group of young men at Cambridge University, including the seminal critic I.A. Richards, actually got together in the 1930s and devised a plan to promote British world hegemony by means of the English language.

When Gefen, a Hashomer Hatzair kibbutznik, joined the English inspectorate in the '60s,

Not long ago, I helped honor a man who changed a lot of people's lives

he was informed by the German Jewish-junta then running English teaching in this country that "The point of teaching children English is to get them to read the literature."

What this boiled down to was several generations of extremely bored sabra and immigrant kids being forced to read Shakespeare in English, as if, like cod liver oil, it was good for them. It also meant Keats, Shelley, Byron and Lord Macaulay's *Letter to His Son*.

Apart from being extremely elitist, this wasn't much good for most people's English. In fact, unlike today, when many pupils are highly motivated to learn English, it was a far from popular subject.

HOWEVER, strange things were happening in the '60s. Some very fine English language literature was also being written by people with funny names like Bellow, V.S. Naipul, Malamud and Roth, not to mention Vladimir Nabokov.

Things have come to such a pass today that if you want to keep up with contemporary English language literature you are obliged to read books written by people with even funnier names like Salman Rushdie, Vikram Seth, Timothy Mo and Michael Ondaatje; Ben Okri, Hanif Kureishi, and Kazuo Ishiguro.

In other words, English belongs to the world. Billions of people who have little or nothing to do with what was once called the

Anglo-Saxon heritage think work, communicate, create and even have fun in English.

Raphael Gefen doggedly pointed out both in the '60s and from 1970, when he became chief inspector, that the world had changed. Teaching English as a foreign language was no longer a form of cultural imperialism.

The aim was not to get Israeli children to study a mythical England of snowy Christmases and upper-class young people called Amelia, Fauntleroy and Ivanhoe. Rather, he noted, while being called a philistine and worse by the junta, the aim was "teaching pupils English as a language of world communication."

Long before the Internet, that meant communicating about things that were "relevant"—i.e. important to you—and "authentic"—i.e. that reflected your real life, say in Kiryat Hayovel or Tira.

But language learning was far more than a tool. To Gefen, once a Marxist, always an idealist, learning English was very much about content.

"Learners," he wrote in the lively and argumentative *English Teachers Journal*, which he founded and edited for many years, "should come away from the English lesson not only having learned some linguistic items, but also having learned something about life." In case you were wondering what happened when Shakespeare went down the drain, the short answer is that it didn't.

Pupils up to enjoying *Hamlet*, that great drama of adolescence, study it in translation in literature classes. For *Hamlet*, like *Crime and Punishment*, *War and Peace*, *Oedipus Rex* and the Bible, belongs to the world too.

A few spoilsports among today's school population may not quite be ready for Tolstoy or Sophocles in translation. However, apart from sending love letters on e-mail, most of them can give intelligible street directions, read labels, and criticize the prime minister in fairly fluent English.

If you don't think that's much of an achievement, try chatting in English with a bunch of teenagers in Rome, Athens, or even Copenhagen.

They may have funny accents, but you'll get a lot more change out of the Israelis.

The writer is an education journalist.

Hebron hype

A.M. ROSENTHAL

WESTERN journalism has just grasped a reality about the Israeli-Arab negotiations that has been known to Arab, Israeli and Western diplomats for at least a month: The delay in signing an agreement on Hebron is far more the result of Yasser Arafat's strategy than Binjamin Netanyahu's.

When Arafat's latest roadblock made that clear, he made an important statement: "There are more burning issues than signing the agreement." Exactly—and Arafat has known it all along.

But for three months, the issue of how and when the Israelis should pull out of the last major West Bank town not yet turned over to the Palestinians has been blown up by the West and the Arabs as desperately critical.

The hype was started in October by President Clinton, who declared Hebron his top Mideast priority. The atmosphere of do-or-die crisis smothered the central reality of Arab-Israeli relations.

No agreement on Israeli evacuation of a particular town or patch of countryside can bring peace unless conditions for peace can be met. These are enduring security, reciprocity and national commitments to move toward peace, not to use the agreement to mount more pressures, more threats.

This is not a sudden revelation, but at least a half-century old. The world sees sets of Israeli-Arab negotiations as unrelated snapshots. They are really like a continuous motion picture, played over and over.

First it showed Arab states answering Israel's creation by vowing to fight it to the death—the real story line. Scene after scene then showed Arabs following intimacies by ceaseless military and economic pressures on Israel.

After Israel returned to Egypt the huge Sinai Desert, captured in 1967 during one of the Arab wars against Israel, Egyptians made the agreed peace so nasty it became not even cold peace, but cold war.

In 1994, when the Labor government offered to return the Golan Heights to Syria, the local dictator recoiled in horror at the price: real peace.

NOW Prime Minister Netanyahu, at great political risk, is going along with the Hebron turnover. He did not get all the security guarantees he wanted. But Nathan Sharansky, one of the most respected members of his cabinet, tells me Israel got enough so that he can vote for the agreement.

He says the new Arafat condition—an automatic timetable for more withdrawals without regard to Palestinian conduct—is unacceptable.

Ever since Netanyahu's election, Arab reaction to him has been revealing. The Egyptians distribute a sewerful of vile articles about him. And the Arab world acts as if Israelis have no right to change governments—unless the new one pleases them. The world nods in sympathy.

Arafat is continuing a tested policy—concentrate Western and Arab pressure hard against Israel when Israel displeases Arabs. Count on pressure, and terrorism, to soften Israel. Then move on—next scene, same movie.

Netanyahu has his own strategy. He wants to show the world he is negotiating in good faith, even within an agreement he distrusts.

If the Palestinians return the good faith, fine for all. If not, Netanyahu will theoretically be free to say Oslo did not work and insist on something new: getting something for something, like acceptable security and boundaries, and tangible reciprocity, not uncashable I.O.U.s.

Meanwhile, he is subduing his own political personality and emphasis on the list of Palestinian noncompliance. There's a limit to how long he can do that.

Already his own representatives abroad seem a bit wistful in public, a characteristic absolutely nerve-racking in Israeli diplomats.

Netanyahu's strategy has the US in mind, perhaps too much. If it works, there can be another party on the White House lawn. If not, President Clinton should give the Israeli leader something better.

He can take US pressure off Israel to sign agreements that can't lead to peace. And he can back two out of the three conditions for peace Netanyahu outlined to Congress: security and reciprocity. The third, a democracy as negotiating partner, remains of course a fantasy.

(Courtesy of the New York Times)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FLOTILLA 13

Sir, — I refer to Steve Rodan's article of December 13, "Daring missions deep down under." I am the author of *Flotilla 13 — The story of Israel's naval commandos* — a 740-page book comprising most of the Flotilla activities. I received official full access to top-secret documents and interviewed about 100 men. Had Mr. Rodan referred to my book, some mistakes would have been avoided.

1. Ami Ayalon was not the "odd man out" — he was a skilled frogman who sank an Egyptian M.T.B. (Operation "Escort"). He received a citation for his bravery on Green Island.

2. The analysis of accidents is wrong — there were much worse days.

3. It seems that Adm. Almog was the only Flotilla C.O. and that only due to him did the navy survive. Some Flotilla 13 veterans fail to agree. The same applies to all other admirals.

Haruzim.

MIKE ELDAR

NEW TWINNING ARRANGEMENT

Sir, — A very minor but highly significant event took place in France a few days ago.

First, the National Front mayor of the southern town of Toulon refused to award a literary prize to the French Jewish writer Marek Halter.

The clear motivation for that decision was the very fact that Halter is a Jew. Nobody in France, Jew or non-Jew, thought otherwise. The National Front has an obvious antisemitic and neo-Nazi agenda.

Then, the Israeli Municipality of Herzliya decided to cancel its twinning with Toulon. Toulon's mayor didn't waste any time. A couple of days later, the Municipality of Toulon announced that it had just concluded another twinning, this time with the PA-governed town of Jenin.

Paris.

FRANÇOIS ABKIN

THE HAIFA MUNICIPALITY

budget available right now. The writer promised, however, that in the 1996 budget (April), it would be considered. The outlay is very small, and compared to the enormous amount of money our mayor is spending on what he thinks the town needs, is out of all proportion to the installation of one light bulb, even if this necessitates an additional lamp-post.

PEACE NEGOTIATOR

from the day he was brought into the picture, were "expected to be concluded in the next few days... hours... soon..." and at the time of writing "tonight."

He replaced experienced diplomats and high-ranking army and ex-army personnel. I understand that as a private lawyer, Mr. Molcho enjoys the highest respect. (Presumably he negotiated excel-

ODD BEDFELLOWS

Sir, — I refer to Uri Avnery's ad of December 20, "True friendship." Anti-Zionism certainly makes strange bedfellows! Here we have Gush Shalom's Uri Avnery, a journalist whose political views are further left than those of Pol Pot, in cahoots with right-wing US statesmen.

Irresponsible bad will towards Israel is the sole cement holding together the strange coalition of foreign right-wing political figures and far-left extremists such as Uri Avnery and his comrades in the so-called Peace camp. Their blind and frequently malicious support for the terrorist dictator Arafat and his stormtroopers' dream of destroying Israel, against the democratic prime minister of Israel struggling to prevent such a possibility, may yet bring calamity upon the entire Middle East and the whole world.

If you go far enough to the left, you complete a circle, ending up attached to the extreme far-right and vice versa.

Kiryat Ono.

TRUDY GEFFEN

1997 is upon us and still there is no budget for this tiny adjustment, which would give pleasure and security to many of us. Two years for such a small request is more than enough. I find the lack of consideration of the mayor for his citizens' requests rather annoying, to say the least.

HAIFA.

HANNAH BRANSON

lent deals for the prime minister in his divorce cases.) However, I would contend that, were you in need of a kidney operation, you might have your doubts on being told that the top heart man was going to be in charge of your case!

So perhaps a little less naive reporting might be in order here!

SIMON JOYCE

Jerusalem.



A rally for jihad? Iranian extremists calling for death to America? No, just a demonstration by Bangladeshi butchers. Well, what would you expect them to do, wave flowers?

(Reuters)

Popularity through persecution

THERE AND THEN
SRAYA SHAPIRO

I was the unremitting persecution by censors that greatly enhanced the popularity of the German poet Heinrich Heine in his native land. His books were banned, in specific instances, by Prince von Metternich, the most influential statesman in post-Napoleonic Europe. The Prussian police issued a warning of arrest to the poet, whose politically inspired verse was resuscitating German ultra-nationalists.

Philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche maintained that Heine was the greatest lyricist in the German language, and Heine's books continued to be much sought after in Germany. But the social climate was becoming more prohibitive each year, and in 1831 Heine took residence in cosmopolitan Paris, which was then the heart of the civilized world. He only ever returned to Germany for two furtive trips in the 1840s.

For a moment Heine considered the United States as a refuge, but he dismissed the idea emphatically. "America is too boorish," he confided to a friend. "Americans make a big show of their Christianity and are the most zealous of churchgoers, hypocrisy being what they learned from the British."

Moreover, he mandated himself to mediate between France and Germany. The French and the British, he maintained, were wholly devoid of feelings. Only the Germans had feelings; they would remain complacent even while exterminating terror, he argued.

France treated him as a celebrity and bestowed on him a regular subsidy, until it was canceled on instruction from Alphonse-Marie-Louis Lamartine, a noted poet, then employed by the government.

The events of Heine's last seven or eight years in Paris are described with cold objectivity by Ernst Pawel in his recently published biography, *The Poet Dying* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 278 pp.). [Heine] was often petty, vindictive, given to slander, self-pity, and self-aggrandizement, inconsistent in his opinions, and unwilling to commit himself," writes Pawel. "That he could also be kind and generous and treated his wife with uncommon affection hardly counted in the balance. There is some truth to almost everything that can be said about him, and his complexity may well hold the clue to his enduring power to disturb."

He was the enfant terrible of German letters, and took a certain pleasure in knowing it. "As a German I, of course, have several opinions at the same time. I note that a day consists of 24 hours divided into day and night - two opposites. Everything that exists, that gives pleasure, consists of opposites." He could seldom resist a witicism or a sardonic crack, no matter who the target was. His critics accused him of cynicism. He broke ties with practically everyone he ever befriended; he had lots of acquaintances and many enemies, but hardly a single friend, hence his painful loneliness. His inner circle consisted mainly of other German exiles, but only Marx remained



Heine's German critics, "were right to read Judaism into almost everything Heine ever wrote."

faithful to him to the end.

Heine lived in Paris in a dimly lit, sparsely furnished apartment. He lived with Crescence Eugenie Mirat, a nearly illiterate, orphaned shop girl, 15 years his junior, whom he married. He called her "Mathilde." He immortalized her in a series of erotic poems. "She loved shopping and her parrot," notes Pawel.

In the last few years of his life another woman entered his world, Prague-born Elise Krinitz, the illegitimate child of Count Nostitz. "Demure, petite, with dreamy delicate features, she possessed both the experience and the malleability to adapt with great skill to the role the dying poet had assigned to her," observes Pawel. When she brought Heine the score of music a Viennese composer wrote to his verse, he impressed her as having: "The head of Christ and the smile of Mephistopheles."

She adored him. Mathilde took an instant dislike to the young woman "but forewent her usual temper tantrums and generally, if grudgingly, tolerated her presence." She called herself Camille Selden, but Heine nicknamed her Mouchette ("Fly").

Heinrich von Treitschke, the German historian, regretted "the eruption of the Jews in our literary history, an ugly and infertile interlude which fortunately did not last long."

Heine's conversion, undertaken for purely practical reasons - he expected to enter the diplomatic service, but failed - did not make him acceptable. His books were banned at the stake by the Nazis.

But even after World War II, the proposal to rename the University of Düsseldorf - Heine's home town - after him, was soundly defeated. In East Germany, before it united with the West, Heine was treated as an opponent of the bourgeoisie, along with Marx and Engels.

Heine lacked piety, observed no traditions, noted Pawel. "Yet his German critics were dead right when they read Judaism into almost everything he ever wrote. The greatest German poet of his time was a Jew looking at the Germans from the outside, one reason he saw them as clearly as he did."

The Heinrich Heine Society here recently marked the 200th anniversary of Heine's birth.

AIDS spokes man

A Canadian real-estate agent cycled around the globe to promote AIDS awareness, only to find that Israelis are rather indifferent to the issue. Leora Eren Frucht reports

A CANADIAN cyclist, who has pedaled 55,000 kilometers in three years, arrived in Israel late November to keep a promise to Jewish friends dying of AIDS.

Bernard Boudreau altered the route of his AIDS fund-raising tour in order to be in Israel on December 1, International AIDS Day.

"I wanted to do something special in Israel because of a promise I made to Jewish friends in Florida," explained Boudreau, who has crisscrossed North America, Central America, Europe, and West Africa on his bicycle. He was scheduled to arrive in Turkey, but changed his plans in order to come to Israel first. "My Jewish friends told me that we might never see each other again and urged me to visit Israel. Since then, some of them have died of AIDS. Others are alive and waiting to hear that I made it to Israel. They wanted me to bring my message here."

Boudreau has been trying to increase awareness about the risk of AIDS, and to encourage compassion for its victims. He embarked on his world cycling trip in August, 1993, with \$40 in his pocket and no sponsors. He pays for his travel expenses and raises

funds for AIDS organizations by soliciting companies in the cities he visits.

SuperPharm sponsored the Middle Eastern leg of his trip, which will include stops in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Turkey and Iran.

Until a chance encounter in a cafe with a woman whose brother had died of AIDS, Boudreau had never known anyone with the disease. That meeting prompted him to volunteer at a Canadian AIDS organization. He says the idea of cycling around the world came to him in a dream.

"People thought I was crazy. Many friends and family members simply cut off relations with me," recalls 41-year-old Boudreau, who abandoned a successful real-estate business in Calgary to pedal 160 kilometers a day and sleep in a tent.

Since he embarked on his journey, he has been robbed four times at gunpoint, driven off the road by anti-gay extremists, and nearly faint while ascending the Swiss Alps. But, he has also been made an honorary citizen of Dallas, photographed with Hollywood stars like Patrick Duffy and Suzanne Somers, and believes he was the first cyclist to ride through Croatia

following the war.

Boudreau opens his photo album and points to a group shot of beautiful African children, dressed in traditional garb, in Senegal. "Can you tell which ones have AIDS?" he asks. The children are smiling, their eyes beaming. "Half of them are HIV-positive."

Next to the photograph is a French-language greeting card with a sketch of a child: "I have AIDS," it says. "Please hold me in your arms. I won't make you ill."

It was the plight of children with AIDS that particularly moved Boudreau and became the theme of his world trek.

He recalls going to a restaurant in Victoria, British Columbia, with a group of children with AIDS, who spoke openly about their condition. "The waitress wouldn't go near them. I thought to myself: 'Why is it OK to die of cancer, but not of AIDS?' I felt I had to do something about this," says Boudreau, who has a 13-year-old daughter in Calgary.

His definition of children has no age limit. "Men of 40 and 50 years old are also someone's children. When they reveal they have AIDS, many of them are abandoned by

their parents. They tell me they will never see their families again. They know they are going to die alone."

BOUDREAU believes that compassion and forgiveness are the key to controlling the spread of the disease. "As long as the disease is cloaked in shame, we can't speak openly about it. This stymies educational efforts and discourages testing, ultimately promoting the spread of the virus."

The Canadian - who spoke to university students in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and appeared on local radio shows during his visit - was struck by the indifference towards AIDS in Israel. "People live under the illusion that it's not a problem here. But the statistics reveal only a small part of the picture. Because there is no anonymous testing, many HIV-positive people don't bother to test themselves. They may be spreading the virus without realizing it."

Israel is one of the only Western countries that does not have anonymous testing (with the exception of a small clinic run by the Tel Aviv-based Israel AIDS Task Force). According to World Health Organization guidelines, the num-

ber of known HIV carriers should be quadrupled in order to get a more realistic estimate of infected people in countries that don't have anonymous testing. This would raise Israel's total from 1,500 to approximately 6,000.

The cyclist said that in Israel he has had "the toughest time of anywhere." Boudreau, who came with a warm letter of introduction and support from Canadian Ambassador David Berger, received generous backing from only one corporate sponsor: SuperPharm, headed by Canadian-born Leon Koffler.

Several international chains, including McDonald's, Budget Rent-a-Car, and Pizza Hut, supported his cause all over the world. But the Israeli subsidiaries refused to be associated with him, he says. "There is obviously fear of being linked to the AIDS struggle. But this is a pity. If companies don't invest now in prevention through education, Israeli society will pay a much greater price later on," he maintains.

"People don't seem to understand that what matters is not where the virus came from, but where it is going."

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"People don't seem to understand that what matters is not where the virus came from, but where it is going."

Why your dog's bark truly may be worse than its bite

HEADS 'N' TAILS
DYORA BEN SHAUL

AFTER reading the breed standard for his German Shepherd, a reader wrote saying he was puzzled by a reference to the type of bite the dog should have. What, he asks, is a dog's bite?

When we speak of a dog's "bite" we refer to the placement of the front teeth, the incisors, and how those of the upper jaw meet those of the lower jaw. There are basically two types of "bite."

The most common in domestic dogs, and the one required for the standard of most breeds, is the "scissor bite." This means that the upper incisors are very slightly in front of the lower incisors, thus, when the mouth is closed, the two rows of teeth meet in a

way that resembles a pair of scissors closing, that is, one blade closing over the other.

But this "scissor bite" is a product of domestication. Wild canines including jackals, wolves, and most pariah breeds of dogs have what is called a "plier bite."

This means that the two rows of teeth meet exactly one on top of the other just as do the two halves of a pair of pliers when they close. Dogs of Canaan, Akitas, and certain other spitz types are required by their breed standard to possess such a bite.

In either case, any deviation from the standard for the particular breed is considered a serious fault.

In the wild state there was a distinct advantage to having a "plier bite." With such a dental arrangement a dog can quite adeptly remove splinters or thorns from



Most domesticated dogs, including German Shepherds, have a "scissor bite."

(Hanoah Gutmann)

with a "scissor bite" which gives a far less exact grasp of small objects. With domestication, where human companions took over the dog's grooming, this bite was less and less advantageous and breeders started to select the "scissor bite," for reasons not clearly understood.

There are other dental deviations that are faults in dog breeds as far as the standard is concerned. One of them is the all-too-common tendency for a dog to have one or more missing premolars.

This too is a product of domestication to a certain degree, although it does occur sometimes in wild canines.

It is thought that these dental deviations are caused by changes in the muzzle and jaws which have been selected by breeders in their pursuit of a certain breed type.

The weight given to these deviations varies from breed to breed and even from judge to judge. Dog-breed judges are only human, and, like all of us, they carry some of their personal prejudices into the ring with them.

I personally know that the breed standard for the Dog of Canaan allows for Canaanis with a black mask, but it would be hard for me to ignore my personal taste and give a championship to a Canaan with a black mask since to me one of the principal attractions of the breed is its sleek eye look with the striking black "eye liner" they have around their eyes - which is not seen in a black-masked Canaan.

It also depends on the breed, since standards for some breeds call dental deviations "serious" or even "disqualifying" faults, while other breed standards class these conditions as "minor faults."

Population control Down Under prompts call for proper semantics

THE Australian government, facing the worst immigration backlash in a decade, has prepared a draft population report as it seeks to refute the notion that this mainly white Christian nation is being "swamped" by Asians.

Yet to be released, the report shows that calls for a halt to Australia's 40-percent annual Asian immigration intake are based on falsehoods, said Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock. "There is the argument that we are being swamped by Asians, when in fact our Asian population at the moment is 4.8 percent [of Australia's 18 million people]. In the next 30 years, it's unlikely to be any greater than 7.5 percent," he said.

In a recent interview, Ruddock declined to discuss the findings of the report, which is being circulated among government members for comment before being presented to parliament.

But there are hopes it will help take the heat out of the immigration debate, reignited last year by independent politician Pauline Hanson, a fish-and-chip shop owner whose September call for a freeze on immigration struck a chord with voters. Hanson has warned that Asian migrants, who now account for over a third of Australia's annual immigration intake, are swamping the nation - a belief also evident in opinion polls.

Her speeches have brought thousands of people onto the streets in protest, been blamed for a surge in racist attacks on new migrants and engulfed the government in a damaging race row.

To former science minister Barry Jones, who pushed for the government to prepare the report, Australia's increasingly divisive immigration debate needs to be steered toward a more sober argument about Australia's size and ethnic make-up. "Once you say this year's immigration intake is 40 percent Asian, someone like Pauline Hanson says, 'God, they are taking over!'" said Jones, who chaired an official population inquiry in 1994.

"You might get a very high Asian intake in a particular year... but the important thing to look at is the population in five and 10 years' time," he told Reuters.

Jones's committee of inquiry did not address racial issues directly, but he said the committee anticipated the current race debate in 1994, when it recommended Canberra consider setting immigration levels with a long-term population target in mind. "We saw the prospect that there was a grave danger that there could be here, as in Europe, a very divisive debate about immigration," Jones said.

The inquiry arrived at possible "population goals" for the middle of the next century, and included a rapid escalation up to 50 million, setting a mid-range of 23 million to 30 million, or stabilizing the population at 17 million to 23 million. It suggested Canberra adopt a population goal, taking the nation's resources and fragile environment into account, and then tailor its immigration intake accordingly, instead of adjusting annual immigration levels ad hoc.

"When you talk about immigration, that's 'them.' When you talk about population, that's 'us,'" Jones said, adding he felt a population policy would avoid more race rows over immigration.

Ruddock, who is in the eye of the Hanson storm, is less sure of this, but says the conservative government's mind is open on the notion of a population policy. He believes most Australians should be comfortable with the current population projection: about 23 million people in 30 years - assuming existing patterns of net immigration, fertility and mortality remain unchanged.

"That's not a particularly alarming figure for most Australians," Ruddock said.

The real question, he said, was

where they all would live. Australia is the only nation to occupy an entire continent, but 70 percent of it is arid. The vast majority of Australians cling to the coast and already the largest city, Sydney, is said to be bursting at the seams. Canberra, the capital, and the states are now discussing ways of persuading new immigrants to settle away from major coastal cities like Sydney and Melbourne.

Earlier this year, Ruddock floated the idea of using financial penalties to ensure newly settled migrants did not drift toward the cities, but some states rejected the plan.

Despite Ruddock's attempts to distinguish between such population issues and the latest immigra-

tion backlash, they have become intertwined in local media coverage of the row. Former science minister Jones believes Hanson and her followers may even have

increased the likelihood Canberra will in future be tempted to focus on population, not immigration. "Pauline Hanson has been in a sense quite a useful agent in all

this," he said. "She has helped to make it much more likely that we will adopt a population policy because she has made immigration a much hotter issue." (Reuters)

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LONE WOLF

A Biography of Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky
by Shmuel Katz

This is the long-awaited English version of the biography of one of the most dramatic figures of 20th century Jewish history - Ze'ev Jabotinsky, founder of Revisionism - journalist, novelist, poet, soldier, linguist and outstanding orator. Shmuel Katz has drawn on archival material, unpublished and newly translated letters, and extensive sources for this account of the center of Zionist history in the 1920's and beyond. Katz himself is known as an author and newspaper columnist; he has used newly available archival documentation in this meticulous and comprehensive biography, from Odessa, 1880 to New York, 1940. Previously published in Hebrew as IABO. Hardcover, 2 vol., 1856pp.

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Little upgrades contract with Villa

LONDON (Reuters) - Aston Villa manager Brian Little has signed a new five-year contract which will keep him at Villa Park until 2002, the Premier League club said on Friday.

Villa chairman Doug Ellis said Little agreed the deal, reportedly worth £2 million, on New Year's Day - a week before speculation linked him to the vacant manager's post at Newcastle after Kevin Keegan resigned.

"We talked about the contract in the summer," Ellis said. "I told Brian then to wait until the New Year when we would sort something out. We presented the contract to him on January 1 and he signed it immediately."

"When there was all the panic and speculation about him going to Newcastle, I knew that he wasn't going there because he had already signed the new contract. I was quietly smiling."

Little said he had two-and-a-half years left on his existing contract, which is now annulled by the new deal.

Top Premier League teams all fizzle

LONDON (Reuters) - Newcastle United showed just why Kevin Keegan's hair turned grey in four years before he quit as manager on Wednesday with a typical jekyll and hyde performance in a 2-2 draw with Aston Villa in the Premier League yesterday.

Newcastle raced into a 2-0 lead after only 21 minutes thanks to goals from Alan Shearer and Lee Clark - but then were lucky to escape with a point thanks to a penalty save by goalkeeper Shaka Hislop midway through the second half.

By the time of the penalty in the 61st minute Villa had fought back to equalize with goals from Dwight Yorke and Savo Milosevic.

Yorke, which scored a hat-trick when Newcastle beat Villa 4-3 in September, then had a great chance to score again, but his poorly taken penalty was saved by Hislop, although Yorke went close to scoring on the rebound.

Both Newcastle goals came courtesy of errors by Australian keeper Mark Bosnich. He allowed a shot from Shearer to creep under his body and then he engineered one of the freak goals of the season.

Preparing to drop-kick the ball away, he lost his footing and inadvertently kicked the ball a few meters straight to Clark who then did superbly to lob the ball into the empty net from 30 meters over the head of defender Steve Staunton.

Yorke's goal came from a tap-in after 39 minutes, while Milosevic also scored from close-range after Staunton had brought a superb save out of Hislop after 52 minutes.

While Newcastle was drawing at Villa, none of the other top eight sides were doing much better and none of them won.

Leader Liverpool wasted a chance of opening up a gap at the top by being held 0-0 at home by a West Ham side with just one win in its last 11 matches, while second-placed Arsenal crashed 1-0 at Sunderland in the second game of their three-match series against each other.

After drawing 1-1 in the FA Cup last week and due to meet again in a replay next week, the match turned nasty after 29 minutes when Arsenal's Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp uncharacteristically went in over the top on Paul Bracewell and was sent off. While Bergkamp lost his temper, Arsenal skipper Tony Adams lost his sense of direction, putting through his own net after 66 minutes.

With third-placed Manchester United not playing Tottenham until today, Wimbledon had a chance of moving above it in the standings but was held to a 1-1 draw at home by Derby where a late goal by Dutchman Rob Willems canceled out Marcus Gayle's 60th-minute effort for the Dons.

While none of the teams at the top won, only one of the bottom six lost.

The losers were Middlesbrough whose 1-0 home defeat to Southampton meant that Bryan Robson's team, assembled at a cost of more than £30 million, fell to



ON SHAKY GROUND - Liverpool player Steve McManaman is tackled by West Ham's Hugo Porfiri.

(Reuters)

bottom. The team also had Clayton Blackmore sent off early in the second half.

Southampton's first away win of the season came courtesy of a controversial 59th-minute penalty from Jim Magilton which followed the handball offense that led to Blackmore's red card.

Nottingham Forest also continued its mini-revival under play-coach Stuart Pearce, beating Chelsea 2-0 with Pearce scoring the first with a trademark thunderbolt free-kick after 40 minutes. Chris Bart-Williams added the second.

Blackburn, which was bottom for most of September and October, continued its climb to safety with their biggest win of the season, a 4-0 victory over Coventry.

Chris Sutton scored twice while Kevin Gallacher and George Donis added the others.

Coventry, unbeaten in its last five league games, had a miserable afternoon. After going 3-0 down

inside 34 minutes, Dion Dublin was sent off for the second successive match after 21 minutes.

Ian Rush meanwhile, who had scored just once in 22 matches for Leeds, scored twice in 25 minutes during its 3-0 win over Leicester.

Division One

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Division Three

NBA Leaders

(Through Thursday's games)

SCORING	GP	PTS	AVG	REBOUNDING	GP	REB	AVG
Michael Jordan, CHI	33	30.4	30.4	Dennis Rodman, CHI	31	50.1	16.2
Shaquille O'Neal, LAL	33	29.2	29.2	Charles Barkley, HOU	29	43.8	15.0
Karl Malone, UTH	34	27.8	27.8	Shaquille O'Neal, LAL	35	43.8	13.1
Latrell Sprewell, GSW	33	24.5	24.5	Dikembe Mutombo, ATL	30	35.0	12.0
Mitch Richmond, SAC	33	24.1	24.1	Shawn Kemp, SEA	36	41.5	11.5
Hakeem Olajuwon, HOU	30	21.2	21.2	Loy Vaught, LAC	33	35.9	10.8
Tim Lincecum, MIN	34	20.7	20.7	Alvin Robertson, TOR	30	31.7	10.6
Gary Payton, SEA	35	20.6	20.6	Ervin Johnson, DEN	33	34.7	10.5
Vin Baker, MIL	30	20.3	20.3	Patrick Ewing, NYK	33	34.6	10.5
Glen Rice, CHA	31	20.3	20.3	Chris Webber, WAS	35	22.6	10.5
Glenn Robinson, MIL	32	20.2	20.2	Dale Davis, IND	31	32.4	10.5
Allen Iverson, PHI	30	20.1	20.1	Alonzo Mourning, MIA	33	34.1	10.3
Reggie Miller, IND	30	19.7	19.7	Pepe Jones, TOR	33	33.3	10.1
Shawn Kemp, SEA	36	19.3	19.3	Anthony Mason, CHA	33	33.2	10.1
Terrill Brandon, CLE	33	19.1	19.1	Rory Selkay, ORL	29	28.3	9.8
John Stockton, UTH	34	17.8	17.8	Hakeem Olajuwon, HOU	30	28.7	9.6
Grant Hill, DET	31	17.8	17.8	Charles Oakley, NYK	31	22.5	9.5
Chris Webber, WAS	31	17.8	17.8	Will Perdue, SAS	24	22.5	9.4
Charles Barkley, HOU	29	17.8	17.8	Tyrone Hill, CLE	32	29.7	9.3
Damon Stoudamire, TOR	32	17.8	17.8				
Joe Smith, GSW	32	17.8	17.8				
Scottie Pippen, CHI	33	17.8	17.8				
Tim Hardaway, MIA	33	17.8	17.8				
Chris Gatling, DAL	30	17.8	17.8				
Kendall Gill, NUN	31	17.8	17.8				
Dale Ellis, DEN	31	17.8	17.8				
Christian Laettner, ATL	31	17.8	17.8				
Dominique Wilkins, SAS	27	17.8	17.8				
Alonzo Mourning, MIA	33	17.8	17.8				
Jeff Ruliffson, PHI	33	17.8	17.8				

FIELD GOAL PCT	GP	FGM	FGA	PCT	ASSISTS	GP	AST	AVG
Rashad Wallace, POR	27	170	289	58.8	Mark Jackson, DEN	32	38.6	12.1
Tim Lincecum, MIN	34	168	281	59.8	John Stockton, UTH	34	38.3	10.7
Shaquille O'Neal, LAL	35	161	275	58.2	Robert Pack, NUN	28	25.3	9.0
Chris Mullin, GSW	33	160	275	58.2	Nick Van Exel, LAL	35	22.6	8.5
Danny Manning, PHO	34	208	375	55.5	Stephen Marbury, MIN	27	17.8	6.6
John Stockton, UTH	34	178	323	55.1	Kenny Anderson, PHO	35	22.6	8.5
Chris Gatling, DAL	30	213	388	53.3	Grant Hill, DET	31	19.7	6.4
Chris Thompson, DET	32	177	331	53.5	Charles Smith, NYK	22	13.2	6.0
Sherman Douglas, MIL	33	150	278	54.0	Latrell Sprewell, GSW	33	18.7	6.0
Gary Trent, POR	35	137	250	52.7				
Karl Malone, UTH	34	144	275	52.4				
Shawn Kemp, SEA	36	173	322	53.7				
Dikembe Mutombo, ATL	30	141	271	52.0				
Vin Baker, MIL	30	135	257	52.5				
Anthony Mason, CHA	33	137	271	50.5				

FREE THROW PCT	GP	FTM	FTA	PCT	STEALS	GP	STL	AVG
M. Abdul-Razak, SAC	31	55	90	61.1	Edoardo Girelli, LAL	30	10.2	3.4
Terrill Brandon, CLE	33	125	136	91.9	Gary Payton, SEA	37	6.4	2.4
Mark Price, GSW	33	125	136	91.9	Mo'Nique Blythe, ATL	27	6.4	2.4
Bryant Stith, DEN	29	122	135	90.4	Greg Anthony, VAN	29	5.2	1.8
Reggie Miller, IND	30	140	155	90.3	Kerry Kittles, PHO	31	6.6	2.1
B. Armstrong, GSW	33	54	60	90.0	John Stockton, UTH	34	6.8	2.0
Jeff Hornacek, UTH	34	131	148	88.5	Clyde Drexler, HOU	35	7.0	2.0
Karl Malone, UTH	34	95	108	88.0	Robert Pack, NUN	28	5.1	1.8
Mark Sealy, LAC	31	127	146	87.0	Robert Pack, NUN	28	5.1	1.8
Byron Scott, LAL	33	98	112	87.5	Robert Pack, NUN	28	5.1	1.8
Mike Eassey, HOU	33	98	112	87.5	Robert Pack, NUN	28	5.1	1.8
Glen Rice, CHA	30	132	152	87.5	Robert Pack, NUN	28	5.1	1.8
Joe Dumars, DET	32	101	117	86.3	Robert Pack, NUN	28	5.1	1.8
Damon Mathis, LAC	33	97	112	86.6	Robert Pack, NUN	28	5.1	1.8
Terry Deffen, LAC	33	99	112	88.4	Robert Pack, NUN	28	5.1	1.8

THREE POINT PCT	GP	3PM	3PA	PCT	BLOCKED SHOTS	GP	BLK	AVG
John Stockton, UTH	34	67	143	46.9	Shawn Bradley, NUN	29	11.9	4.1
Joe Dumars, DET	32	65	141	46.1	Dikembe Mutombo, ATL	30	11.3	3.8
Byron Scott, LAL	33	60	131	45.8	Kevin Garnett, MIN	33	10.3	3.1
Reggie Miller, IND	30	48	105	45.7	Shaquille O'Neal, LAL	35	10.3	2.9
Mark Jackson, DEN	32	30	70	42.9	Alonzo Mourning, MIA	33	9.4	2.8
Glen Rice, CHA	30	70	160	43.8	Patrick Ewing, NYK	33	9.1	2.7
Steve Kerr, GSW	33	41	101	40.6	Kevin Garnett, MIN	33	9.1	2.7
Det Curry, CHA	32	80	195	41.0	Jim McInnis, SEA	36	8.3	2.3
Chris Mullin, GSW	33	75	183	41.0	Chris Webber, WAS	31	7.0	2.3
Darvey Fyfe, CLE	32	52	120	43.3	Walt Perdue, SAS	24	4.4	1.8
Anthony Goodrich, CHA	31	88	205	42.9	Antonio McDyess, DEN	31	5.4	1.7
Will Williams, TOR	31	88	205	42.9	Erick Dampier, IND	29	4.8	1.7
Terrill Brandon, CLE	33	52	124	41.9	Roy Rogers, ORL	29	4.8	1.7
Mark Price, GSW	33	52	124	41.9	Stojko Vrankovic, MIN	34	5.3	1.6
Byron Russell, UTH	34	40	98	40.8	Charles Oakley, NYK	33	5.1	1.6

TEAM OFFENSE	GP	FGM	FGA	PCT	3PM	3PA	PCT	FTM	FTA	PCT	AVG
Chicago	33	1203-2302	467	21.4	256-582	368	69.6	595-770	773	77.0	102.7
Seattle	34	1269-2387	461	28.0	288-763	351	77.2	706-1004	706	70.4	100.4
Houston	34	1216-2623	481	28.9	370	351	105.7	726	99.8	100.4	
Golden State	33	1181-2623	453	20.7	207-559	370	70.4	786	99.8	99.8	
Utah	34	1269-2387	461	28.0	288-763	351	77.2	706	99.8	99.8	
Phoenix	34	1269-2387	461	28.0	288-763	351	77.2	706	99.8	99.8	
LA Lakers	34	1318-2549	463	22.7	201-511	378	53.2	684	98.8	98.8	
Portland	34	1173-2378	461	25.4	222-621	341	64.5	744	98.1	98.1	
LA Clippers	32	1223-2638	462	26.4	242-636	352	69.3	728	97.1	97.1	
Milwaukee	33	1211-2532	478	27.3	237-568	357	66.5	738	97.1	97.1	
Boston	31	1149-2351	418	24.6	183-408	329	55.8	656	96.2	96.2	
Philadelphia	33	1133-2700	420	20.3	202-622	329	61.8	656	95.5	95.5	
Denver	33	1146-2631	436	22.8	225-615	372	61.1	730	94.2	94.2	
New Jersey	34	1184-2572	436	18.5	185-525	312	58.3	710	94.2	94.2	
Dallas	31	1099-2452	448	18.4	184-532	343	54.3	685	94.1	94.1	
Minnesota	34	1178-2580	439	14.7	147-419	351	70.0	719	94.1	94.1	
New York	34	1159-2510	461	18.4	184-532	343	54.3	685	94.1	94.1	
Indiana	31	1051-2341	418	18.5	185-525	312	58.3	710	94.2	94.2	
Atlanta	32	1101-2385	462	23.6	236-572	413	56.7	715	93.8	93.8	
Charlotte	33	1150-2548	451	21.5	215-532	406	53.5	678	93.7	93.7	
Sacramento	34	1245-2618	442	18.5	185-525	312	58.3	710	94.2	94.2	
LA Clippers	33	1136-2608	436	15.4	154-434	355	62.8	657	92.8	92.8	
Denver	33	1101-2385	462	23.6	236-572	413	56.7	715	91.7	91.7	
Miami	31	1101-2385	462	23.6	236-572	413	56.7	715	91.7	91.7	
Cleveland	33	1136-2608	436	15.4	154-434	355	62.8	657	91.2	91.2	
Orlando	34	1245-2618	442	18.5	185-525	312	58.3	710	94.2	94.2	
Atlanta	30	985-2362	419	18.1	184-524	334	54.1	689	91.3	91.3	

Eurobourses down

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

The backdrop of weak German economic data released Thursday helped to push the mark lower, while the apparent halting of intervention by the central banks of Norway and Spain sped up the decline, analysts said.

Shortly after Wall Street opened, London, Europe's biggest bourse, was down 50 points or 1.2%. It later recovered somewhat and the FTSE 100 index ended 30.4 points or 0.74% lower at 4,056.6, its lowest close for three weeks.

NEW YORK (AP) — The dollar rose against most currencies Friday on robust December employment figures, reinforcing the view that the US economy is growing while Japan and much of Europe struggle with persistent weakness.

A sharp sell-off in the pound also fed into the dollar rally. The British currency tumbled after optimism for higher interest rates in Britain faded on data that showed an unexpected decline in the country's manufacturing.

Demand for dollars pushed the US currency to the highest level against the mark since early July 1994.

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

healthy 14.8 percent advance in 1996. Unfortunately, that was slightly worse than the 15.3% gain the Russell 2000 had registered by late May, before last summer's steep downturn.

The Russell 2000 finally erased the remaining damage from that slide this past week, setting its first new high since May 22. Naturally, then, the second half of 1996 was a humbling experience for many investors who watched their small company-oriented mutual funds lag the popular averages.

Still, the conventional wisdom that dominated the start of 1996 seemed fairly logical.

Blue-chip measures such as the Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard & Poor's 500 list of larger companies rarely put together back-to-back years of blockbuster gains.

Although the more speculative sectors also rallied in 1995, the probability of a 1996 repeat seemed more feasible in that arena. And until late spring, the emerging growth sector looked like a sweet bet.

Many analysts find the case for small companies even more compelling now.

[illegible]

Bainco Corp	7.25	+0	Dun & Bradst	94	+0.125	Jones River Ba	36	+1	Oracle Systems	40 875	-0.575	Symantec	16.9375	+0.0625	Land Securities		-
Baker Hughes	36.875	+0.875	Du Pont	108	-1.5	Jefferson Plt	57.125	-0.125	Oryx Energy Co	26.75	-1.25	Sysco Corp	32.75	-0.25	Lloyds Bank	445	-
			Du Pont	108	+1.5	Johnson & J	51.125	-0.375	Dynatech Equip	14	-0.25				Morris & Spencer	488.5	-17

Bank One Corp.	44.75	+0.75	Eastman Kodak	92.375	+1.00	Kellogg	94.000	+0.50	Pfizer Group	44.25	+0.25	Tenet Hosp. Group	10.00	+0.25	UnitedHealth	10.00	+0.25
Banking	47	-0.25	Easton Corp.	70	+0.5	KLA Instruments	38.675	+0.25	PNC Financial	37.25	-0.375	Telecom. Corp.	14.4375	+0.0625	Unilever	1392.5	+14
BankAmerica	96	-0.375	Echelon Inc.	32.375	-0.125	Konami	39.375	+0.375	PPG Industries	54.25	+1.25	Tenneco Int'l	55.625	+1.75			
Bank of Boston	65.75	+0.5	Emerson Elec.	101.75	+1.25	Korn-McGee	74.625	+0.75									

Battle Mountain Gd .. 7.29	+0.375	Entergy Corp .. 27.625	-0.375	Knight Ridder .. 38.375	-0.125	Pac Gas & Elect .. 21.875	-0.125	Texaco .. 107.375	+2.375	At&T Worldcom .. 82.1	-6
Bouché & Lomb .. 34.375	-0.75	Erco Biochem .. 20.625	-0.625	Kroger .. 45.625	-0.75	Pac Telecom .. 36	-1.125	Texas Instrmnts .. 67.625	+1.25	Alcoa Alstom .. 423.9	-7.1
Booster Intl .. 43.375	-0.125	Ethy Corp .. 9.625	-0.125	LSI LSC .. 31	-0.875	Pet Corp .. 25.75	-0	Texas Utilties .. 41.25	-0.5	BSN .. 754	+0
Bak. Impart .. 32	-1.725	Exxon .. 106.25	-3.875	Perk Express .. 44.25	-0.5	Tenneco .. 28.5	-0.875	Tenneco .. 28.5	-0.875	Canal .. 1107	-13

BallSouth	39	+0	Fedders Corp.	6,26	+0.125	United Inc.	17	+0.125	Pennsylvania Pwr. & Lt.	23,973	+0.25	Time Warner	37.5	-0.125	Geo. Lippitt (Co.)	130	-1.8
HA Belo Corp.	35	+0.125	Federal Express	43,75	-0.125	Unisys Technol.	45,25	+1	Permalco	81.5	+1.3	Times-Mirror	50	0	EB Equinox	487.9	+1.4
ServiceCorp.	63,125	+0.25	Federal Mogul	23,575	+0.375	Lincoln Natl.	62,625	-0.25	People's Energy	35,125	-0.25	Tenison	48	-0.125	Spartan	9.3	-0.15
BallSouth	5,525	0				Lincoln Natl.	47.35	-0.5	Repsol	39,125	-0.125	Tenneco	64	+0.07	LVNH	1,608	-0.5

Bowling	105.126	-0.125	First Chicago	82.9	+0.5	Lone Star	36.825	-0.125	Pineco Edge	73.125	-3.125	Transamerica	79.875	+0.25
Bowler Cascade	94.75	+0.875	First Intern	"	"	Long Island Lt	22.5	"	Phidacel Dgc	25.75	"	Tenneco Energy	56.5	-1.75
Bowwater Inc	41.625	+1.625	First Union	73.5	+0.125	Longs Drug Srs	49.875	+0.625	Philip Morris	113	-0.375	Travelers Gap	45.25	-0.625
												Permco Ricard	298	-0.7
												Ricard	244	.5

Brw Telecom	67.125	+0	Revised Entero	25.125	-0.5	Luxant Tech	51.125	+1.375	Policy Mgt Sys	4.5	-0.25	Tyco Labs	54.625	+0.625	FRANKFURT		
Brooklyn Union	29.375	+0.125	Plumbing Co OK	17.25	+0.375	Luzintel	32.875	+0.375	Polymx	4.875	+0	Tyler	2	+0.25	Altegra AG	1118	-2
Brown Group	15.5	-0.125	Florida Prog	32.875	+0				Posash Corp	87.25	-0.125				BASF	67.5	+1.15

CBS Inc.	21.125	+0.375	Freeman McMor	31.5	+0	Mapco Inc.	33.825	-0.375	Quaker Oats	36.75	+0.125	USX-US Steel	32.375	-0.375	Deutsche Bank	76.26	+1.48
CMS Energy Corp.	33.5	-0.25	Gelbach Toys	14.5	-0	Marratt	33.625	-0.875	Quiscom Corp.	27.125	-0.125	Unilever Corp.	27.125	-0.125	Dresdner Bk	48.63	+0.18
CRC	75.375	+0.125	Winn & Mclun	105.125	-1.375	Ninsh & Mclun	105.125	-1.375	Unilever NV	62.75	-1.5	Hoechst	56.7	-0.5			
									Unicom C			Lufthansa	21.85	+0.1			

Casual Cos ABC	85	+0.125	GenCorp	18.375	+0.25	Nasdaq Inc	27.5	-0.5	Rank Organ ADR	14.5	-0.125	Unaysa Corp	8.875	+0	Siemens	77.70	+0.90			
Carolina Petr LI	36.5	+0	Gen Ant Invest	21.375	-0.125	Maytag Corp	20.625	+0.625	Raychem Corp	81.375	-0.625	USAR Corp	23	-0.375	USF&G Corp	21.25	-0.625	Volkswagen	712	+21.5
Compass Tech	36.375	+0.25	Gen Dynamics	69.375	+0.75	McDermott	17.625	+0.25	Raytheon	47.25	-0.25									

Carlisle & Coy	40,240	-0.37	Gen Motors H	53,125	-0.40	Marathon Corp	53,375	-1.25	Rea Air Corp	38,750	-0.23	US Surgical	37,250	-0.12
Cardinal	40,125	-0.75	Gen Public Ut	33,500	-	Mead Corp	60,750	+1.5	Roadway Services	20	-0.125	US Trust	78,500	-0.75
Champion Intl	48,750	+1.25	Gen Reinsurance	159,500	-	Metric Inc	70,500	-0.25	Roadwell Intl	60,375	-0.5	US West	32,750	-0.125
Chem Shoppers	4,880,000	+1,550,000	Gen Serv	45,375	-1	Union Bar	71,750	-0.375	Robt & Hiss	84,500	-0.625	United Tech	99,625	+1.625

Coverstock Trading Ltd.

FLEXIBLE

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	yield to/total NS assets 1996 (%) (millions)
Abir	184.15	180.06	+4.01	+4.01 15.9
Affiliam flexible	181.59	178.11	+3.43	+3.43 9.8
Ahrayui flexible	442.16	434.36	+9.60	+9.60 3.1
Analyst Diversified	615.44	600.86	+9.63	+9.63 55.4
Arimodes	97.16	95.15	+9.04	+9.04 0.2
Asaf	185.52	183.07	+9.43	+9.43 1.1
Avuka	1602.33	1596.64	+7.07	+7.07 1.1
Bazak flexible	131.19	129.47	+0.30	+0.20 0.2
Bethua 30 plus	157.10	153.38	+9.99	+9.99 6.3
Bethua flexible	2379.80	2347.68	+4.45	+4.45 7.8
Bloch Rotsztein flexible	156.77	153.38	+12.63	+12.63 7.7
Dovnar-Shrem flexible	154.68	151.38	+6.64	+6.64 34.3
Espoon flexible	130.41	129.92	+8.33	+8.33 3.3
Esargreen flexible	102.34	100.12	+8.33	+8.33 4.1
Idit	3306.06	3267.96	+5.67	+5.67 29.1
lign flexible	127.59	127.14	+6.54	+6.54 7.2
lign shukit	113.01	112.67	+1.02	+1.02 5.7
Isnot Tzidar	272.22	270.22	+6.56	+6.56 70.5
Isnot Tzidar	206.54	202.71	+8.53	+8.53 25.0
Ipan flexible	118.86	116.47	+5.37	+5.37 4.9
Klali flexible	1011.77	995.36	+7.98	+7.98 5.3
Lamashkin	436.79	430.82	+9.93	+9.93 7.0
Lapid	1387.46	1382.26	+2.92	+2.92 7.0
Macaron	219.59	216.31	+9.09	+9.09 26.0
Macofim flexible	111.91	109.74	+8.33	+8.33 2.0
Meirav	132.91	132.43	+6.23	+6.23 6.5
Meirav flexible	1726.79	1707.64	+8.97	+8.97 2.9
Moked	2799.78	2778.47	+3.89	+3.89 71.0
Moritz Money Market	114.61	114.61	+0.61	+0.61 21.0
Moritz flexible	222.27	220.57	+6.81	+6.81 9.7
Netz	179.76	179.36	+17.55	+17.55 1.4
Noga	721.02	711.37	+3.43	+3.43 36.5
Omer Pekon	181.45	178.12	+6.84	+6.84 23.8
Ozar flexible	83.07	81.53	+8.07	+8.07 3.3
Ozner	167.77	167.77	+6.57	+6.57 3.6
Pai bayes	184.18	182.67	+7.85	+7.85 29.5
Pai kala	762.32	758.52	+6.01	+6.01 302.3
Pasgot 100	264.95	262.57	+9.52	+9.52 67.6
Pasgot flexible	470.41	461.66	+9.37	+9.37 128.2
Ramco flexible	128.27	126.66	+8.34	+8.34 5.6
Sar	167.77	163.40	+6.50	+6.50 192.2
Sapanoot flexible	72.50	72.72	+9.01	+9.01 0.5
Sigma flexible	82.11	81.31	+4.14	+4.14 8.4
Sivan	199.40	196.65	+11.21	+11.21 27.0
Tamsha flexible	2610.17	2571.48	+7.64	+7.64 5.3
Yaad flexible	90.31	89.51	+3.61	+3.61 1.4
Yesodot	2807.01	2755.35	+11.31	+11.31 35.1
Zalfer flexible	167.61	166.66	+7.33	+7.33 1.9
Zion flexible	1287.57	1279.74	+6.66	+6.66 2.4
Zion yadim	114.19	113.79	+4.86	+4.86 0.4

SHARES

Adif	107.00	105.04	+12.34	+12.34	31.0
Affiliat shares	236.18	233.12	+9.11	+11.01	12.7
Abrayut oil shares	145.50	142.39	+8.92	+8.92	2.8
Abrayut real estate	215.61	210.99	+9.39	+9.39	11.8
Abrayut shares	288.10	282.22	+10.25	+10.25	3.8
Abrayut aggressive	121.65	119.39	+12.39	+12.39	18.5
Analysis Equity	954.53	932.13	+10.20	+10.20	94.8
Analysis Industries	292.01	285.15	+10.63	+10.63	42.9
Atlas pekan	119.44	116.94	+7.00	+7.00	32.4
Baron	167.20	164.01	+9.79	+9.79	7.7
Benuta shares	3917.30	3864.51	+7.95	+7.95	8.2
Brivoot	67.97	67.03	+8.62	+8.62	1.6
Capital shares	80.70	79.53	+10.67	+10.67	1.5
Chemical Pekan	85.44	84.07	+9.08	+9.08	2.8
Dovrat-Sharon curam	107.21	104.97	+10.24	+10.24	6.7
Dovrat-Sharon shares	94.49	92.46	+10.55	+10.55	8.5
Emda Canaf	62.54	61.35	+3.91	+3.91	2.1
Emda Curam	1528.18	1510.87	+11.25	+11.25	18.9
Emda Export	65.59	64.82	+7.07	+7.07	12.3
Emda Shani	83.29	82.77	+8.51	+8.51	1.2
Epsilon 36	62.20	61.89	+10.11	+10.11	2.9
Epsilon shares	154.69	152.82	+1.62	+1.62	2.8
Esh	286.41	280.97	+10.82	+10.82	24.2
Esh	584.94	573.07	+6.20	+6.20	2.7
Eigar	133.58	131.10	+8.09	+8.09	59.3
Evergreen shares	132.02	129.13	+9.25	+9.25	6.6
Eyal shares	113.62	113.22	+8.34	+8.34	2.0
Gal	90.28	89.06	+9.91	+9.91	10.2
Noon pekan	85.08	85.42	+12.40	+12.40	30.7
Igud shares	117.93	117.93	+9.31	+9.31	6.8
Ilanoel Deot	2474.14	2428.57	+8.58	+8.58	75.7
Ilanoel Duvdevan	2153.40	2113.81	+8.91	+8.91	48.3
Ilanoel maof	162.54	161.75	+7.60	+7.60	54.3
Ilanoel shechaim	50.28	49.34	+11.73	+11.73	14.1
Israel-America	178.65	176.84	+5.51	+5.51	1.3
Klali maof	194.77	194.04	+7.47	+7.47	12.7
Klali shares	127.18	125.41	+8.87	+8.87	2.4
Kolav	140.88	138.77	+11.04	+11.04	3.7
Kur Money Market	108.27	108.23	+0.52	+0.52	7.6
Lahak Curam	95.54	94.72	+10.20	+10.20	12.7
Lahak anafa	245.88	241.31	+9.16	+9.16	17.4
Lahak ankor	712.85	695.76	+7.92	+7.92	49.5
Lahak export	55.39	55.39	+9.75	+9.75	8.5
Lahak rom	97.66	95.54	+7.46	+7.46	7.3
Lahak salt	116.12	113.65	+11.59	+11.59	42.1
Lahak signpost	84.48	84.48	+8.44	+8.44	20.9
Lahak tor	350.00	343.50	+9.81	+9.81	83.7
Lahak zamir	673.56	661.08	+7.60	+7.60	49.7
Maagal	76.41	75.82	+9.79	+9.79	6.6
Maale maof pekan	155.75	152.87	+7.53	+7.53	79.3
Magic	739.52	735.19	+10.75	+10.75	11.2
Mashabey Teva	62.77	61.70	+3.73	+3.73	2.1
Mazot	97.20	95.87	+8.89	+8.89	7.2
Maif Maif	166.33	165.45	+7.58	+7.58	34.6
Meretz	406.84	403.77	+7.88	+7.88	58.3
Mifan	97.55	96.85	+8.94	+8.94	15.3
Milgar finance	97.55	96.82	+10.44	+10.44	11.8
Mivnah	321.88	319.43	+7.77	+7.77	50.0
Mondial	151.98	150.53	+4.22	+4.22	10.0
Mor	1230.33	1220.71	+8.36	+8.36	89.6
Mosiz shares	52.98	51.39	+10.53	+10.53	3.7
Nili	886.40	873.95	+10.59	+10.59	139.9
Nimretzet	76.82	75.36	+9.81	+9.81	3.3
Omega	109.40	107.37	+12.16	+12.16	1.5
Ozar foreign int' per'	120.94	118.72	+7.01	+7.01	1.6
Ozar shares	92.30	90.61	+7.83	+7.83	7.9
Pia 2000	72.95	71.61	+10.70	+10.70	19.6
Pia bdoalach	801.94	793.02	+9.81	+9.81	76.3
Pia maof	121.56	122.35	+10.46	+10.46	46.7
Pia maof	159.88	156.88	+7.28	+7.28	93.8
Pia michol	639.42	627.71	+9.16	+9.16	119.5
Pia ocdm	986.20	967.98	+11.21	+11.21	127.5
Pia world	102.39	101.44	+5.74	+5.74	28.9
Pia yahalom	921.25	904.46	+10.50	+10.50	67.2
Pia zinuk	54.75	54.42	+10.18	+10.18	31.2
Princess Continental	47.15	46.27	+10.72	+10.72	14.9
Pria	113.44	112.94	+5.38	+5.38	1.1
Rasm 90	137.29	134.57	+12.20	+12.20	7.5
Simodan shares	92.44	90.98	+11.32	+11.32	1.0
Tamsha curam	216.73	214.25	+12.61	+12.61	3.4
Tamsha shares	518.71	515.36	+9.96	+9.96	4.7
Tsot Sufa	119.02	116.15	+7.73	+7.73	12.5
Year	67.98	65.78	+17.40	+17.40	0.9
Zik	314.19	312.95	+8.95	+8.95	6.0
Zinger Barnea Financial	93.05	91.31	+9.25	+9.25	0.6
Zion curam	87.62	87.04	+11.99	+11.99	3.5
Zion shares	124.22	123.34	+10.42	+10.42	2.2

STATE BONDS

Alhrajay state	392.97	387.69	+ 0.76	+0.76	3.3
Almugat	309.02	303.24	+ 1.28	+1.28	166.3
Analyst Government Bonds 350.73		345.89	+ 1.81	+1.81	41.7
Bendish state	2122.56	2093.67	+ 1.15	+1.15	4.3
Ducas	2122.54	2117.70	+ 0.63	+0.63	16.5
Emda state	1032.06	1022.49	+ 0.50	+0.50	51.0
Epilston state	174.05	173.77	+ 1.37	+1.37	10.2
Geva	370.80	365.84	+ 1.53	+1.53	71.3
Hilla	484.12	484.12	+ 0.66	+0.66	152.9
Klali Dots	1110.36	1090.19	+ 1.24	+1.24	11.5
Klali state	434.28	428.25	+ 1.28	+1.28	41.5
Lesheim	1334.38	1319.44	+ 0.78	+0.78	48.1
Maroon	5425.36	5383.25	+ 0.81	+0.81	36.2
Massach state	130.59	129.65	+ 0.61	+1.60	3.0
Mivlavi	1512.16	1500.63	+ 0.80	+0.80	42.2
Nesuu state	1189.67	1180.50	+ 0.63	+0.63	38.8
Ozar state	138.10	135.57	+ 0.60	+0.60	15.0
Pa shefa	220.10	218.25	+ 1.50	+1.50	166
Peugot state	496.33	383.11	+ 0.98	+0.98	33.7
Peugot mada	338.49	338.49	+ 1.30	+1.30	92.2
Sapenoo state	131.39	131.39	+ 0.98	+0.98	33.7
Shavit	638.68	626.75	+ 0.98	+0.98	204.2
Sigma state	121.16	119.49	+ 0.61	+0.61	8.1
Tamsha state	1809.07	1782.53	+ 1.00	+1.00	6.2
Yana	532.49	522.26	+ 0.51	+0.51	89.6
Yevul	562.64	650.22	+ 1.62	+1.62	187.4
Ziv	543.27	535.09	+ 1.57	+1.57	363
Zohar	451.17	445.15	+ 1.46	+1.46	46.2

SOURCE: MEITAV LAY - Managers of Mutual Funds and Securities

Zohar 451.17 445.15 + 1.46 + 1.46 30.2
 SOURCE: MEITAV Ltd - Managers of Mutual Funds and Security Investments
 DATE: 08-Jan-97

Police unsure if TA bombs were terror acts

POLICE Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said Friday that the investigation into the two bombings in Tel Aviv was focusing on an analysis of the explosives used in the bombs and identikit of suspects.

Hefetz said it was still too early to determine whether the two bombs that went off in garbage cans near the old central bus station were planted by terrorists. Criminal motives have not been ruled out, he added.

He noted that the bombs contained nails and screws aimed at increasing the number of casualties. He also revealed that the bombs were set off by a sophisticated timing device.

Police have collected information from witnesses with which identikit of suspects will be sketched, Hefetz said.

The sketch of one suspect who was seen acting suspiciously near the scene has already been prepared, Tel Aviv police chief Cmdr. Shlomo Aharonishky said.

Three Arabs arrested immediately after the bombings were released late Thursday night.

They were in the area of the central bus station when the bombs went off and were questioned on suspicion of involvement, but were not found to have been connected to the incident.

President Ezer Weizman said Friday that Thursday's bombings were not a reason to delay the peace process.

"We are taking the right path, even if it has many difficulties," Weizman said Friday while visiting bomb blast victims at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital.

Asked if he thought there was a connection between the bombings and the delay in concluding a Hebron agreement, Weizman

said: "I hope that what happened [Thursday night] was not a result of the delay in the signing," adding that it is the Palestinians who are holding up the agreement.

"Arafat has brought up several issues for discussion which have held up the agreement," he said. "I hope he understands that he has to make a greater effort."

Weizman also said he hoped that the relationship between Netanyahu and Arafat would improve.

Regarding reported police assessments that the bombs were planted by Jewish extremists, Weizman said "Since I am not a policeman I think otherwise."

Weizman visited with a policeman, Shimon Biton, who was injured in the second blast. He told the president that immediately after the first blast he cleared people off the pedestrian walkway and helped bring the injured into a nearby store. Then the second blast occurred. Biton noted that he had met the president two weeks earlier when he was at Beit Hanassi to receive an outstanding policeman award.

Weizman also met with 20-year-old Elinor Yismailov who celebrated her birthday yesterday. The president asked her what she wanted for her birthday. "Peace," she answered.

Meanwhile, life returned to normal Friday on Rehov Nevev Sha'an, where the bombs went off. Hundreds of people flocked to the pedestrian mall and stores were open for business. However, pedestrians said they would be more aware of suspicious objects and people.

The Income Tax Authority said the damage caused by the bombings was around NIS 150,000. (Itm)



Hana Cohen, who works for the Israeli Hemyola company, gives balloons to Jordanian children on Friday, the third day of the first Israeli trade fair in Amman.

Amman militants pray for end to Israeli trade fair

AMMAN (AP) — More than 2,000 Jordanians gathered Friday to pray and call on their government to cancel Israel's first trade fair here.

It is the second large gathering to protest the exhibition since Wednesday, when security forces fired water cannons to disperse 4,000 demonstrators protesting the four-day Israeli fair.

No arrests or injuries were reported in Friday's noisy but peaceful three-hour protest, which included lawmakers, trade unionists and members of political parties.

The noon prayer and protest gathering coincided with the start of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan.

"It is shameful for us to host this fair while the hideous (Prime Minister Binyamin)

Netanyahu is killing our people in Palestine and south Lebanon," shouted Hamzeh Mansour, a member of parliament.

"Our government should cancel this disgraceful event," said Mansour, a spokesman for the fundamentalist Islamic Action Front.

Worshippers spread out carpets under a traffic light in the middle of a street, 1 km. away from the blue hangar which houses the Israeli fair, the first since the 1994 Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

More than 800 riot police, some on horses, clutched shields and wooden clubs, and wore gas masks as they faced the crowd, blocking the way to the fair. Police helicopters hovered overhead.

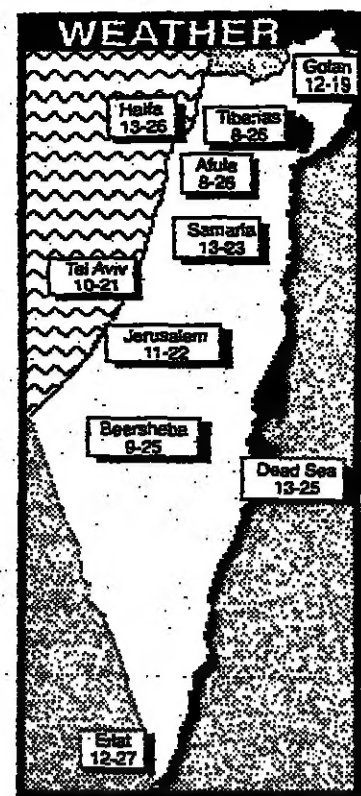
On the other side of the street, representatives of the 62 Israeli firms at the fair watched

the protest amid tight security. The fair was held for only half a day because of the holiday and few people attended.

"It is frustrating for the people to see an intransigent Israel rejecting making real peace with the Arabs while our government is opening the doors wide for Israel to invade the area economically," said Toujan Faisal, an independent member of parliament.

Many in Jordan's predominantly Palestinian population reject normalizing relations with Israel until it relinquishes all land overrun in the Six-Day War.

Muslim fundamentalists, who advocate the annihilation of Israel, have also pushed hard for Jordan to freeze relations.



AROUND THE WORLD				
	LOW	F	HIGH	
Amsterdam	-04	25	38	cloudy
Berlin	-05	21	34	cloudy
Buenos Aires	-25	17	24	cloudy
Chicago	-17	01	-04	clear
Copenhagen	-08	01	04	cloudy
Frankfurt	-02	12	21	cloudy
Geneva	-05	05	18	cloudy
Helsinki	-18	04	14	cloudy
Hong Kong	11	23	34	clear
London	10	19	28	cloudy
Los Angeles	-01	10	18	cloudy
Madrid	18	20	27	clear
Moscow	-07	13	20	clear
Munich	-05	14	21	cloudy
New York	-02	25	34	cloudy
Paris	-01	18	27	cloudy
Rome	-02	17	26	cloudy
Stockholm	-10	15	26	cloudy
Sydney	17	28	37	clear
Tokyo	04	18	27	cloudy
Toronto	-11	12	21	clear
Vienna	-02	28	37	cloudy
Zurich	-04	25	38	cloudy

Rehov Bar-Ilan protests return

HUNDREDS of haredim demonstrated over the weekend on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan, demanding it be closed on Shabbat and holidays.

Over a thousand people were involved in the protests Friday night and yesterday. Three haredim were arrested in the melee. (Itm)

Arafat: Bombings are Israel's problem

ELDAD BECK and news agencies

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said on Friday that two bombs which exploded in Tel Aviv on Thursday night concerned only internal events in Israel, and appealed for European help to advance peace negotiations.

"We have nothing to do with this attack. It is an attack which concerns internal events within Israel," Arafat told reporters after meeting French President Jacques Chirac.

A Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) commander said on Friday the bombings were a response for last week's attack on Arabs in Hebron. Abu Ahmed Fuad, chief of the PFLP's military department, refused to confirm or deny his group's responsibility for Thursday's two bomb blasts.

"The Palestinian people are replying to the crime committed by Israel against the innocent people in Hebron. The bombings reflected our people's determination to continue resistance," Fuad told Reuters.

"We neither deny nor confirm our responsibility for the Tel Aviv blast," he said.

Military court issues stiffer sentence to soldiers fined one agora

A MILITARY appeals court imposed a stiffer sentence on four IDF soldiers who had been fined one agora each by a lower court for killing a Palestinian, the IDF Spokesman said Friday.

The four soldiers, members of the Duvdevan undercover unit, were each given instead one month suspended prison sentence.

The four were charged in connection with the shooting death of Eyad Mohammed Ewad Awali, 18, near Tulkarm on November

13, 1993. The army had intended to charge the soldiers with involuntary manslaughter, but the prosecution's case weakened when some Palestinian witnesses failed to testify.

The defense asked for and was granted a symbolic punishment in exchange for guilty pleas to violating open-fire regulations.

The one agora fine outraged many and the prosecution said it would appeal. (AP)

Swiss president rules out apology for blackmail remarks

ZURICH (Reuters) — Swiss President Arnold Koller said the government was not planning to apologize for remarks by his predecessor Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, who described calls for Swiss restitution to Holocaust victims as blackmail.

He told Swiss-German television late on Friday that Delamuraz had already publicly expressed regret for his remarks, which angered Jewish groups and triggered threats of a boycott against Swiss banks.

"A further distancing is not being discussed," Koller said in the Arena television program. Delamuraz's remarks reignited a dispute between Switzerland and Jewish groups over how to investigate the fate of Jewish funds deposited in Swiss banks before and up to World War II.

While the Swiss government has ignored demands that it denounce the remarks, Koller said it was willing to discuss setting up

a Holocaust memorial fund with banks. This move should not be viewed as the government giving in to any pressure, Koller added.

Meanwhile, a poll published yesterday indicates that despite international criticism, most Swiss support their government's reluctance to pay out immediate compensation to Jews who lost assets in the Holocaust.

Some 45 percent of those questioned said the government was right to stand by Delamuraz. Twenty nine percent said the Swiss cabinet should formally distance itself from Delamuraz, as of the 748 people questioned, 27% had no opinion, according to the poll published in the mass-selling daily Blick. The government has already acknowledged that it might compensate Jewish victims of the Nazis before the final results of a full inquiry — which could take years — was completed.

ed. Swiss Jewish groups have proposed that the government repay Jewish groups the \$5 million Swiss francs (\$40 million) they spent to support Jews who were allowed to enter Switzerland during the war. No other refugees had to pay for their own upkeep.

Delamuraz made his remarks last month as he completed his one-year term in the rotating Swiss presidency. The remarks triggered angry reactions not only from outraged Israeli politicians and world Jewish groups, but also from other Swiss politicians.

On Friday the Social Democrats, one of four parties in the center-left coalition that has ruled since 1959, said the council must distance itself from Delamuraz's remarks. "These comments are not only an unbearable insult to victims of the Holocaust. They also insult Switzerland and the Swiss people at the same time," it said.

Ten soccer fans hurt as roof collapses in Ashdod

TEN people were injured, one seriously, when an asbestos roof they were sitting on during a soccer game Friday afternoon in Ashdod collapsed.

The incident occurred when some 40 people climbed atop the roof of an old firehouse near the local soccer stadium and sat on it to get a view of the field. When two more people climbed up during the game, the roof gave way.

"There were about 40 people on the roof," said Erez Weizman, who was one of them. "During the game two more climbed up, one of them very fat. I told them to get down, because the roof was already overloaded, but just as they climbed up, it gave way and 15-20 people fell to the floor and were hurt. Luckily I was on the edge, so I didn't get hurt."

Police and firefighters arrived at the scene and took them to the hospital. Simi Marzak, 14, suf-

fered a serious head injury and was taken to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer. The rest of the injured were taken to Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot or to Ashkelon's Barzilai Hospital.

"We didn't want to buy a ticket for the Ironi Ashdod game because we're Hapoel Ashkelon fans, so we climbed up on the roof. We didn't think this would happen, but we're not going to climb up on the roof anymore," one of the fans said.

Ashdod police commander Ch-Supt. Amnon Ziv said it was a shame people were willing to risk their lives instead of paying NIS 30 for a ticket. "The municipality was responsible for the abandoned building and should have prevented people from climbing up on the roof. It's not the job of the police. The police were responsible for security inside the stadium," he said. (Itm)

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